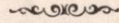
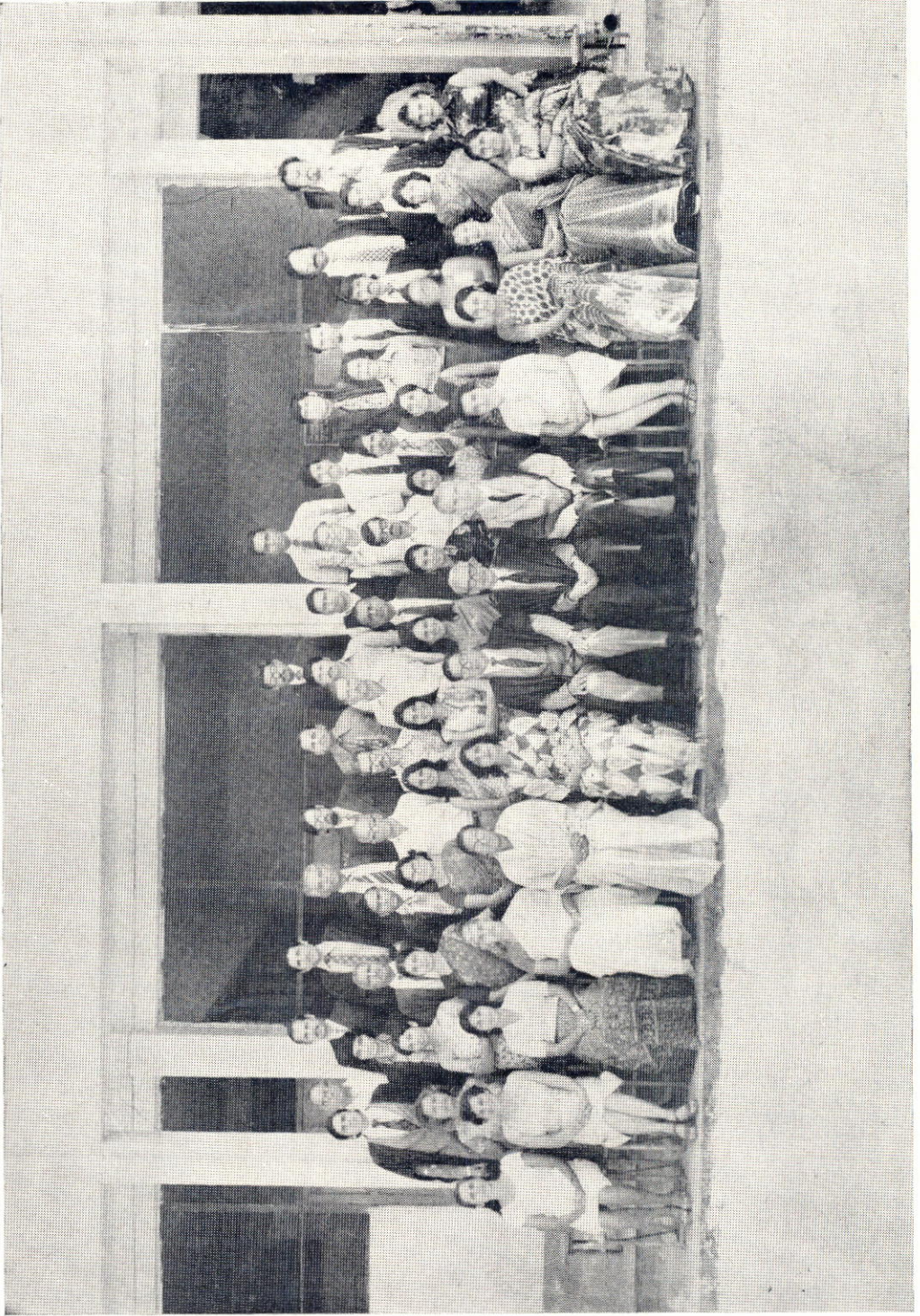


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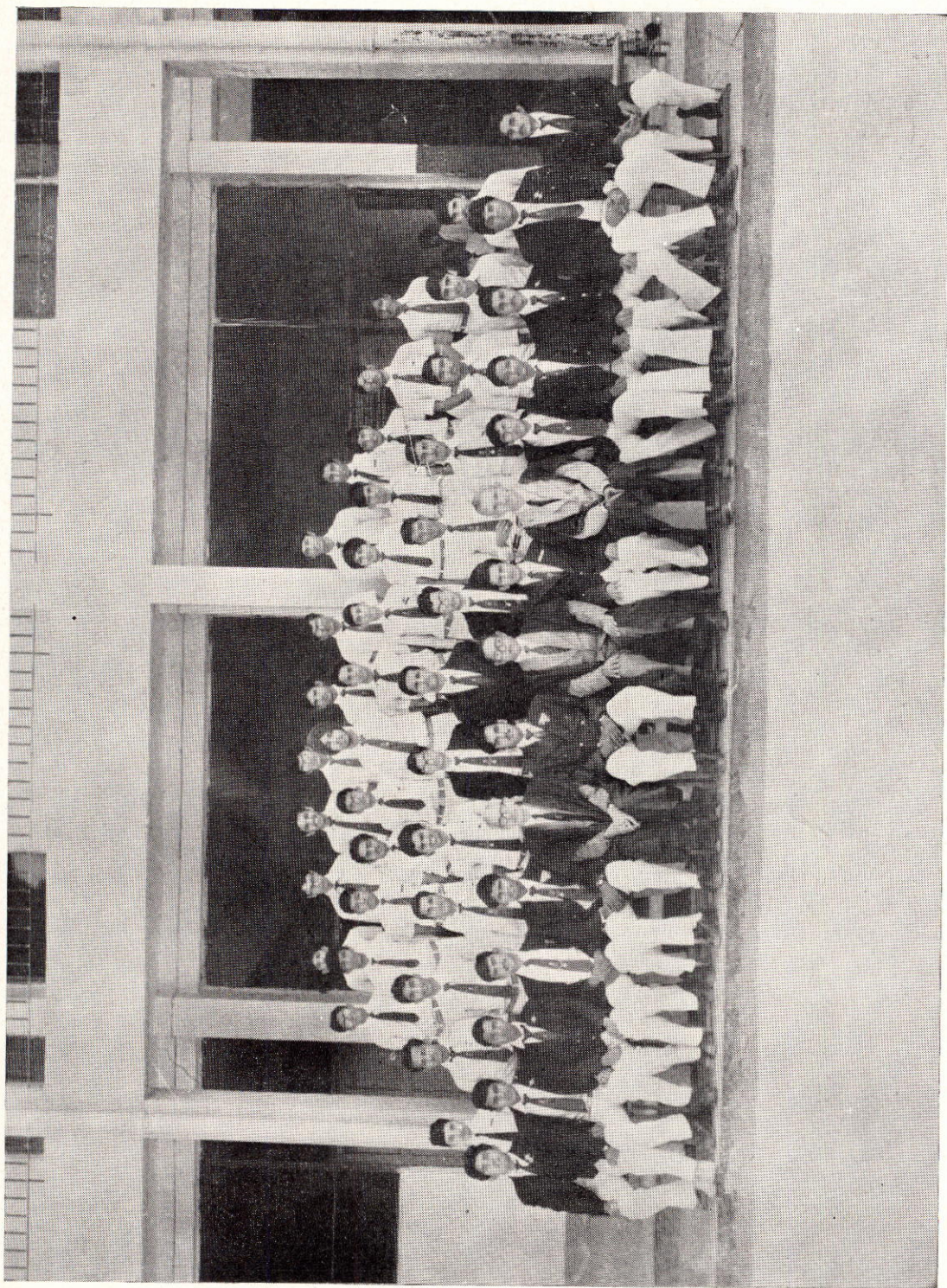


1	Some of the Events of the Year Jan. 1979 to Feb. 1980	3
2	Principal's Report 1979	10
3	The Junior School Variety Entertainment	16
4	Class Prizes (Junior School)	17
5	Prize Giving Senior School	18
6	Class Prizes (Senior School)	19
7	Special Prizes Middle & Senior School	20
8	House Awards	21
9	Independence Day Celebrations	22
10	House Notes	22
11	International Year of the Child	25
12	Public Speaking in Bishop's	26
13	P. T. A. G. K. Competitions	27
14	Pune Herald I. Y. C. G. K. Contest	28
15	Eloquence	29
16	Scouting	29
17	Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme	30
18	Athletics	31
19	Games & Sports	35
20	Old Boys' Corner	45
21	The Solar Eclipse	48
22	Founders' Week	49
23	Principal's Sermon	54
24	I C S E Results	58
25	Essays (Senior)	60
26	Essays (Junior)	69

HINDI SECTION



THE STAFF



PREFECTS AND MONITORS

SOME OF THE EVENTS OF THE YEAR — JAN. 1979 TO FEB. 1980



The heading of this diary gives the major way in which this "year" has differed from other years — it has lasted for more than the normal twelve months, both in Bishop's and in most other ICSE Schools in this part of India, because of the change in date of the ICSE exam from November to February.

... ..

The first term of 1979 was known as Zero term, the second term being the first term, and so on — just to confuse things! The boarders returned on January 15th, and the very next day, at the first Assembly of the year, M. Nimbalkar was appointed Headboy with J. Mahtani and R. Sydney as the Vice head-boys.

The boys began the year well by beating the Staff at Hockey (3-2) on the eve of Republic Day. However the Staff beat the boys in a swimming race a few days later!

1979 was the International Year of the Child. This was the theme of the talks given by Senior boys in the Harding Hall on Republic Day. Earlier, in his speech after the Flag Raising ceremony, the Principal had told us of his plans for the IYC — to raise sufficient money to support for many years to come an orphan or other needy child at Panch Howd. Details of the results of our efforts will appear later.

... ..

February 2nd brought the second non-teaching day in the first three weeks of term. The first was Republic Day and this was Long Distance Run day. A few would have preferred to have normal classes, but the majority took part with a will and all went well.

... ..

More interruptions came in the following week, this time the Inter-House Tug of War competition being the reason on two afternoons and a fete in aid of the Eventide home the reason on another one, with some Field events for the sports thrown in. The records show that on one day during the week, the Staff won two pulls against the boys and also avenged their earlier Hockey defeat (6-2) — according to the M O D "a lucky day for the Staff."

... ..

After two days of (comparatively) uninterrupted class-work, sports Heats took up the last three working days of the next week plus the Saturday morning as well. The fact that there was a Social on the Saturday evening shows that the Senior boys did not use up all their energies on sports.

... ..

Thanks to Lt. Col. Darshan Singh, we were allowed to use the ASPT for our Athletics finals — and he even arranged for transport there for March Past rehearsals and on the actual day itself! It was lovely to have such an excellent venue, and the only pity was that we were unable to fill the stands with the many hundreds of spectators that they can hold. However, the boys acquitted themselves well and, I gather, quite impressed the chief guest — Lt. Col. Darshan Singh himself.

... ..

Karate classes, organised by Mr. G. O'Connor, were a popular innovation at about this time. Some of the boys became so enthusiastic that they wanted to let Karate take preference over other games and evening study — and this enthusiasm had to be very firmly curbed by those in charge!

... ..

In March there was an inter-schools debate at St. Mary's, and A. Wagle and A. Khudanpur proudly returned from it having won the shield.

... ..

All the time, inter-class Hockey matches had been going on, as had also rehearsals for the Junior and Senior Entertainments to be put on after Prize-giving. Dress-rehearsals were held, the Holi Holiday celebrated and then Thursday March 15th was upon us — the Ides of March had come! 'Ay, but not gone.' Fortunately, there was no Caesar's corpse to be buried at the end of the Junior School Prize giving and entertainment on that day! Mrs. S. Devadasan, the Chief Guest, was enthusiastic about all that she saw, and she wrote, "A rare school, conducive to education in the true sense, I was aware of an atmosphere of learning, graciousness, and the growth of the spirit and personality. A heart-warming place that I should love to be associated with." Similarly, things went well on the next day when it was the turn of the seniors. Brigadier Malhotra, the Chief Guest, wrote "A very refreshing and educative visit." So, all who took part in any way in all that went on during March 15th and 16th should feel well rewarded and should be determined to keep that standard flourishing in Bishop's throughout the whole of every year.

... ..

On March 21st the long-awaited ICSE results arrived. The Council itself does not give divisions, but following the system used by other local schools and ourselves, the results showed: — 1st Division 26, 2nd Division 34, 3rd Division 18, and there were five who did not pass. There were the usual surprises and disappointments, but, generally speaking, it was a slightly better result than anticipated as no boys had been held back from the exam in November, however weak we considered them.

... ..

Two groups of boys went to Scripture Union Camps at Nasrapur in March, and Class 9 — or nearly all of them — disappeared from school for the last week of term. Mr. G. O'Connor, Mr. A. Fernandes, Mr. D. Choudhary, and Mr. C. D'Monte took them to Matheran on a SUPW camp, and from all reports they did good work there. For those who have no idea what kind of camp is meant by SUPW, the letters stand for Socially

Useful and Productive Work; a certain amount of such work has to be carried out by Senior boys before their names may be entered for the Council exam.

... ..

St. Peter's, Panchgani, is our friendly rival in most sports, one of our teams going up there and one of theirs coming here. In March, our Juniors went up there and their Seniors came here to play Hockey, and we won both matches.

... ..

The Inspector of Anglo-Indian Schools paid us a visit on March 29th and visited several classes while lessons were in progress.

... ..

The Zero term ended in the first week of April, with a Class 10 Social on one day and a film on the last night of term.

... ..

In what must be one of the quickest "casualties" in school history, a new boarder joined on the first day of the Monsoon term and within an hour or two had hurled himself off a slide and broken both his wrists! He had, perforce, to spend his first month as a Bishopite at home, since he was unable to do any-thing for himself by reason of his plasters, but he returned as full of "go" as ever at the end of that month to keep all responsible for him on their toes.

... ..

In their first match of the season, the boys beat the staff (4-1) at football in mid-June. There was no sign of the monsoon, and a State-wide shortage of electricity caused us to introduce economy measures, which are still continuing.

... ..

The ICSE Selection Exams were held in the second half of June, and the monsoon made a belated start- it turned out to be a poor monsoon in Pune, though not as disastrously bad as in North India.

... ..

Continuing our friendly association with the ASPT two truckloads of boys and staff enjoyed their annual P. T. Display one evening. Other activities there, such as the Command sports, take place during school hours and are harder to attend.

... ..

Mr. Rod Gilbert paid his annual visit in the first week of July. He has a wonderful way with boys, and is especially popular with the boarders when he shows film-strips in their dormitories. Incidentally, Scripture Union meetings, organised by some of the senior Christian boys, take place each week, and Mr. Gilbert is occasionally able to come to these too.

... ..

The annual T. A. B. / Cholera 'jabs' were given in July and did nothing to help the turn-out of boys for inter-class football matches.. Many boarders claimed to be too sick for evening study, but, strangely, nearly all of them were well enough to leave their dormitories to watch 'Young World' or 'Chhaya Geet' on T. V.!

... ..

The Skylab scare, caused largely, I feel, by the World's Press to increase newspaper sales, hit Bishop's, and several boys and parents were in a state of nerves, at least one parent even wanting her son home from school so that they would be safe-or killed- together. In the event, there was a loud splash several thousand kilometres from India, and no one was even hurt, let alone killed.

... ..

Our Senior and Junior Football teams entered the inter-school leagues, and there was a real Football fever in the school, with crowds going to watch the matches at St. Vincent's. Both our teams did well—details are in the Football article.

... ..

Indoor Table Tennis and Badminton Tournaments are sensible monsoon fixtures. Less so is the open-air Boxing tournament and, sure enough, on two consecutive evenings elimination bouts were washed out. In a way this was a good thing as these bouts were then held during afternoon school on a Friday and, as a result, there were lots of spectators, many of whom had never seen any boxing which normally takes place after tea and is therefore watched mainly by boarders and the few keen day-scholars. The finals were held as scheduled in the evening of July 30th.

... ..

In addition to inter-House and individual Table-Tennis and Badminton Tournaments, our teams entered the Inter-Schools competition and did very well. Those who went to watch the badminton at Loyola's were very envious of their lovely court! Loyola's beat us in the finals, incidentally.

... ..

Independence Day brought the Middle and Senior School Elocution competition, after the Flag-hoisting ceremony. Some of these boys later in the year took part in inter-school competitions and acquitted themselves well, as did the school General Knowledge team in two separate competitions. Details will be found in the relevant articles.

... ..

The Monsoon term, and the football season, except for matches against St. Peter's in late September, ended with the boys beating the staff 3-0.

... ..

The 2nd term had a larger number of wet days than the so-called monsoon term — probably the weather-gods were puzzled by the re-numbering of the terms. Whatever the weather, the football matches against St. Peter's were played. Up there our Seniors lost while our Juniors won here. That really was the end of the football season, and now Cricket and Gymnastics practice were the regular evening activities.

... ..

As the ICSE is no longer in November, it was decided to have Founder's Celebrations this year two or three weeks later than usual. This being basically a day-school, everything that requires a large number of boys has to take place between 8.30 and 4. So the Zero period was introduced on October 15th and continued till Founder's. This means that all periods are shortened by five minutes each, and the time saved is called the Zero period and is utilised for practice for Founder's Week — the March Past, the Mass P. T. and the choir for the Thanksgiving Service.

... ..

In the middle of all these preparations, and with our own fete only a week away, our neighbours— St. Mary's School— had their fete. Nothing would keep our boys away from it!

... ..

On November 7th there was the usual impressive Service of Thanksgiving at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. After that the Exhibition was open till lunch-time. The P. T. display started just before 5.15 p. m. Owing to the state-wide shortage of electricity, we had decided not to use the mains current at all but to have the majority of items in the 45 or 50 minutes before sunset and the last few by flood-light from a generator, obtained from the army. This generator worked perfectly an hour before the show and again half an hour after it, but it utterly refused to show any signs of life when really required. So two items had to be omitted and the closing speeches were delivered in the twilight. After this P. T. Display, the crowds milled round the Exhibition for an hour and a half.

... ..

The next day was our annual fete— held this year in aid of our I. Y. C. project and so opened, fittingly, by Mother Enid Mary and two representative children who won all hearts. Financially, at any rate, it was a great success, and we found we had reached our target — whereupon the Principal at once raised it!

... ..

The Cricket matches against the Old boys were played on the third and last day of our Founder's celebrations in the usual pleasant semi-serious, semi-non-serious fashion. The Old Boys beat the present, and the Old, Old Boys beat the Staff.

... ..

Actually, the celebrations unofficially continued for one more day, with a basket-ball match on Saturday morning against the Old Boys and Staff, won by the Present. A few days later, Hutchings came over for a friendly basket-ball match which we just won (28-27).

... ..

The brothers from Don Bosco come once a week for the Roman Catholic boys to have Catechism classes, and about once a term these boys go over there for a Quiz or other activity, which they thoroughly enjoy. The Anglican boys had two special services in November / December at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin (given its full name as some boys wrongly think it is the Church of St. Mary's School which other people are kindly allowed to use !) One was a joint service for the congregations of three groups—the C. N. I. (to which we belong) the C. S. I. and the Mar- l homa Church. The other was an inspiring Confirmation service at which several of our boys were confirmed.

... ..

On November 22nd, the Principal announced that the increased I Y C fund target of Rs. 18,000/- had been reached and that the fund was now closed. This money was put into Monthly Income Certificates yielding Rs. 150/- a month. The odd amount of about Rs. 500/- received in excess of Rs. 18,000/- was sent to Panch Howd as a Christmas treat, in the same way as the fruit used to decorate the Church for the Thanksgiving Service in November had been sent for the boys and girls there to eat and enjoy.

... ..

The second term ended on a more academic note than usual, with ICSE—Prelims, and Tests for other classes, and then in the final week of term the P. T. A's inter-House G. K. competition—Harding winning both Senior and Junior ones.

... ..

Early in the 1st term, a new T. V. set had been installed as the old one was far too erratic in performance. Lovers of Hindi films, American / British Comedy shows and Cricket were and are delighted. The biggest T. V. fans are the servants, incidentally.

... ..

The New Year of 1980 did not bring the start of the new school year, as January and February were added to the 1979 Academic year. The boarders were due back on January 7th, and the first two arrived at 2.30 a. m., to the fury of all whose sleep was so unnecessarily interrupted ! 18 hours later — it was still the same, very long day— the dormitories were well filled. Next day was the first day of term and, as usual, a full teaching day, made more interesting by the result of the General Election with consequent speculation on what Mrs. Gandhi's return to power would mean for the country.

... ..

There was a P. T. A. meeting on Jan. 24th. Many parents came to discuss their sons' progress, or lack of it, with subject teachers, but very few stayed on for the Annual General Meeting which, therefore, became a farce.

... ..

Republic Day was a Saturday this year, but a large number of day-scholars were able to be present for the ceremonies despite transport problems. After the flag-raising and Assembly, there were some enjoyable impromptu speeches by volunteers from the Senior and Middle School. The Class Ten prefects and monitors were officially relieved of their

duties which Class Nine boys took over, but there was no formal installation of prefects and monitors as that will take place in March, when the Academic year begins.

... ..

The ICSE exams started on Feb. 11th and the papers arrived only on the 8th! The theory papers were done first, followed by the Science practicals, which is the reverse of what has been done in the past. The Hall was hot and airless in the afternoons, despite the fans, and certain boys were very somnolent, one actually having to be woken up when he put his head down early in a paper, to have a think, and dropped off. He then continued writing right till the end; so it was not lack of knowledge, but drowsiness due to overstudy and the heat.

... ..

The School end-of-year exams also started soon after the ICSE exams, and the lunch-break was made an hour earlier to make two equal sessions. So February was a very exam-oriented month.

... ..

During the ICSE Exams we were very sad to hear of the sudden death of Sudeep Mazumdar, who spent two years here as a Boarder in Classes 5 and 6, leaving at the end of 1978 to go to a day-school near his home in Gujrat. He was a keen sportsman, gaining the Rex Ludorum in his Athletics Division, and was a good and popular boy, who still kept in touch with us even after he had left. We send our deep sympathy to his bereaved parents.

... ..

On the 16th, a Saturday, Nature produced a fairly rare spectacle, an eclipse of the sun. Unfortunately, Poona was not in the path of totality, and we had only about 90% of the sun blacked out. Many boys and staff took quick looks at this through several thicknesses of film, welder's glass and such-like or looked at the T. V. relay.

... ..

The final Assembly of the Academic Year was held at 11-15 a. m. on Friday, Feb. 29th—this is a leap year—and the Boarders' Farewell Dinner was held that evening. All save 16 of the boarders went home for the ten days' March break, leaving the staff to continue marking the Exams and make out results sheets, ready for the new Academic year due to start on March 11th—altogether these new dates are very muddling!

~*~*~*~

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 1979

1979 was a longer than usual school year covering a period of transition. We now have a school year from March to February, with the ICSE Examinations in February. We also had to change the 'Terms' and alter the games programme. (Athletics and Long Distance Runs will have to be held in Nov./Dec., and our Hockey season is interrupted by the ICSE Examinations and the 'end of school year' break. This has upset our annual fixture against St. Peter's School, Panchgani).

However, though there are changes in the School Calendar, our tone and basic foundation remains unchanged. Our faith in the old, valued system and traditional standards of dress and manners remains unaltered.

I am quite convinced that it is for this reason that people from various parts of the country and other countries are keen to send their sons to Bishop's.

Spiritual Values

We have Daily Assembly with Hymns, Bible Reading, prayers and talks on moral themes.

Scripture Union meetings, Catechism classes, and the Youth Group meet every week and on Sundays boarders are encouraged to go to their various places of worship.

Boys look forward to Mr. Rod Gilbert's visits, and many join the annual camps at Nasrapur.

Numbers on the Roll

We have about 1370 boys on the rolls of whom about 215 are boarders.

Health

Mr. C. B. Nair looks after our boarders with loving care. He is very efficient, and during class hours deals with accidents that occur to day scholars as well. There were epidemics of 'Flu', 'Chicken-Pox' and 'Measles,' which he was able to cope with quite well. He also helps staff and servants whenever requested. I thank him for his sincere and good work.

Entertainment—the Weekly Film Show

This year Mr. Jagus completes 35 years screening the weekly Friday Film in Bishop's. I am sure that this is some kind of a record. Mr. Jagus is not merely a friend of the school, he is a part of it. I wish to thank him, and I hope that he will continue to bring joy to the campus for years to come.

Head Boy and Prefects

Our prefectorial system works well, and our senior boys get good lessons in leadership. They have the task of marshalling 1370 boys. The head Boy for 1979-1980 Murlidhar Nimbalkar did an excellent job in this year of change. He was sincere and loyal and always set a good example to all.

School Atmosphere

As I have said before, one of the great things about Bishop's is the amazing way in which boys, coming from a very large variety of cultural and religious backgrounds, live together in harmony and friendship. Boys from Ethiopia, Iran, Zambia, Ghana, Nigeria, all countries of the Middle East, Ceylon, Hongkong, Japan, Casablanca, Spain, England, Canada, Australia, America, Guyana, Liberia, Mauritania, etc, all parts of our own nation, towns villages... all form a pleasant, prejudice-free friendly atmosphere.

New boys settle in quickly and are generally very happy here.

Boarding Section

This continues to be well organised, and there are now four residential masters who are in charge of Blocks. Mr. C. D. Beaman as before devotes much of his time to the needs and problems of this section which is an important one. I would like to place on record my sincere and grateful thanks to him for the sincere hard work he does.

The Junior Section

This continues to maintain an excellent standard. It is reputed to be the best in Pune. I thank Mrs. Roberts and her staff for the excellent work of the Jr. School.

Middle Section/School functions and Mr. Ringrow's work

Mr. R. Ringrow looks after the Middle Section with its many problems, and he assists me with a number of senior section matters and administration. I wish to place on record my gratitude for his valuable assistance specially in organising important school functions such as Athletics, P. T. Display, Prize day & other activities,

ICSE Results and Academics :

Considering the time we spend on the games field and activities, our results are good. The general overall ICSE results of 83 boys entered for the examination were :

1st : 26, 2nd : 34, 3rd : 18, Failures 5. Some of the individual results were brilliant. (The Council does not give divisions; we have followed a system used by other local schools and ourselves)

We have three new subjects now for boys i. e. Economics, Commerce and Shorthand.

M. Ganguly who passed out a few years ago with an excellent record has topped the M. B. B. S. examinations this year winning 5 out of 6 coveted prizes. I congratulate him on this fine achievement.*

The boy who came first in the HSC Exam of 1979, Gaitonde, was a Bishopite who joined St. Vincent's after passing the ICSE. There are many Bishopites among the best students of the leading Colleges in Pune. Unfortunately conducting ISC(12) classes here is not feasible, so we lose our boys after class X.

Social Work and our IYC Project

Many of our boys continue to give of their time talent and money to support a worthy cause. They help the blind, The Red Cross, The Leprosy Mission, etc.

* There is a photograph of him with one of his prizes later in this magazine. (Editor's note)

Film shows were organised for charitable purposes of the Anglo-Indian Association and Terre Des Hommes and a Fete for the Eventide Home. Books were collected for the needy.

The International year of the child was celebrated in various ways in Pune. Bishop's boys participated in many of these but our own project was I think the finest achievement of our School in 1979. We set out to adopt one orphan child in St. Mary's orphanage in Panch Howd conducted by the 'Wantage Sisters'. Our boys and parents gave willingly, and within a few months we collected Rs. 18,500/- (including the proceeds of the 1979 School Fete). You will be glad to know that from this we gave Rs. 500/- for the orphans at Christmas and the remaining Rs. 18000/- has been invested in a fixed deposit in the Bank of India in a fund known as 'The Bishop's School IYC Fund'. The monthly income from this —almost Rs. 150/- —is credited (directly) each month by our bank into the Convent of St. Mary's Children Maintenance Fund. This amount is used by the Convent to maintain one orphan, and partly another. This is one of the best things we have done, and I wish to thank all boys, staff, parents and friends who have helped us fulfil this noble deed. I will hasten to add that this must not make us feel that we have fulfilled our duty to those less fortunate. I hope it is the beginning of what you and I and our young friends will continue to do throughout our lives, to have a lasting concern for this and other causes, and to add at least Rs. 1000/- every year to the IYC Fund to meet any increase in the cost due to inflation of maintaining at least one orphan.

SUPW

Socially Useful Productive Work required by the ISC Council is taken very seriously now that the Council requires that boys be awarded grades according to rules laid down by them.

Our boys do a lot of work in School on the work site, some work with orphans, others in a clinic and so on. However, the main project for SUPW in 1979 was the camp at Matheran. About 80 boys spent five days doing repair and renovation work on the old Hermitage there. These boys collected money for paints and equipment, painted the doors that had not been painted for ages, and they helped Commander Almeida 'rewire' the building. The credit for organising this goes to Mr. G. O'Connor assisted by Mr. H. O'Connor and Mr. Choudhary.

Some boys also helped to do some work at Panch Howd Convent.

Games and Activities

As usual we had a year crowded with activities. We have as many as 25 different activities and games organised in a manner that enables a large number of boys to take part. We encourage boys to take advantage of these by conducting many of them on an Inter-House and Inter-Class basis. We also take the trouble to organise some of these during School hours, and we spend quite liberally in this connection. Games are compulsory for our boarders. This accounts for the fact that boarders generally do better than dayscholars. Many dayscholars prefer to spend the evening in the cool comfort of their homes, the cinema hall or a club. I appeal to parents to discourage this. Parents should encourage their children to benefit from the character building value of organised activities— for this will help them grow into fine men.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme continues to flourish under Mr. H. O'Connor assisted by Mr. G. O'Connor.

The Scout troops have done well under Mr. A. Fernandes and Mr. S. Fernandes.

Karate Classes are organised by Mr. G. O'Connor, Photography classes by Mr. Choudhary and Mr. Innis, Special art classes by Mr. Smith and Swimming lessons by Mr. Matkar and Mr. Daniell.

Our School did well in elocution and won two inter-school trophies In 1979, one organised by the Lioness Club and the other by St. Mary's School.

We participated in two open G. K. competitions and did quite well. Chetan Shetty and Asit Wagle as usual gave a good account of themselves in debates and declamations.

Cyrus Meher-Homji again topped the Country in certain items of the music examinations.

Public speaking is encouraged, specially on National days, and this year some of our boys gave excellent speeches on the 'Rights of a Child'.

Some of our boys took part in the Pune region boxing Championship and won prizes. I wish to thank Mr. Aspi Irani and Mr. Mamdapurkar for their help in conducting our boxing tournaments.

In Football both our teams did extremely well in the Inter-School tournaments. Our seniors reached the quarter-finals and juniors the Semi-finals. The credit for a good senior XI goes to Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Daniell, and a good junior XI to Mr. Innis and Mr. Jagtap. We only lost to teams consisting of boys who were much, much bigger than ours.

In 1979 there were no inter A. I. School (State) fixtures, but we played matches against St. Peter's School, Panchgani; the honours were shared.

Educational tours to Singapore and South India were organised by Mr. Daniell, Mr. Choudhary and Mrs. Mirchandani.

Our boys take part in various art competitions.

Mr. Beaman and Mrs. Jolly help with the School Choir. I wish to thank them, also Mrs. Jolly for playing the piano daily at Assembly and Mr. Aitkins for playing the organ for our Annual Thanksgiving Service.

The Art, Craft and Science exhibitions, and P. T. Display maintained a high standard.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to the army authorities, specially Col. Darshan Singh, Col. Chopra, authorities of the A. F. M. C., Military Hospital, Brig. O'Leary, S. C. P. T. School, C. M. E., Brig. Bagga, B. E. G., and the Commander Sub-Area for the willing help they extend to us when we need grounds, coaches, equipment, transport or treatment.

Old boys from our School do very well in their colleges in games, and the rich traditions of the school are kept alive by them. One local college had five Bishopites in their football XI last year.

P. T. A.

Attendances at the P. T. A. Executive meetings were poor and for the Annual General Meeting there were only twelve parents present. However, we had our regular meetings and open days between parents and teachers organised by the School, and it is clear that parents are generally happier discussing their own son with teachers and are not keen on other organisational matters. It is a sign that most parents are happy with the School. We seriously plan to reorganise the P.T.A. to meet individual needs of parents. I thank Mrs. Wagle for having helped us with the G. K. Competition.

Buildings and repairs

A lot of repair work was done in 1979. Many of our buildings are old and need constant repairs. Work has started on our new Science block. During the last seven years we have done much from savings. We have never made any appeal to parents or friends; however, we will be grateful for any help of any kind. Our funds will not take us very far, but we are going ahead with faith. If anyone can help us get steel, cement or other materials at controlled rates I shall be grateful for such help.

Governing Body

I place on record my sincere thanks to Members of the Governing Body. To Mr. C. G. Young, the Chairman and members Mr. O. D. Bason, Rev. D. Rae, Mr. E. Dique, Mr. J. Timmins, Mr. D. L. Amore for their support, guidance & help. They are deeply concerned with our school in a very genuine way and are a very active board. I am glad to report that both Mr. Young and Mr. Amore have recovered from their illnesses. Mr. Young recently had a heart attack.

Staff

We welcomed to the staff Mrs. A. Tara who taught Hindi in the Junior School for a year, Miss B D'Souza, who conducted music classes for a few months, Mrs. Lestyne in the boarding section and Miss. Khokar who filled a temporary vacancy in the Middle School for about six weeks. Mr. T. Charaniya joined us to teach Mathematics and Mr. W. Corda to teach Commerce in the Senior Section.

Mrs. C. Latif, Junior School, Mrs. Burrowes (Matron) resigned, and Mr. Lestyne migrated to the U. S, A.

Staff salaries were revised in 1979, and again all categories of teaching staff got increases ranging from Rs. 40/-, to Rs. 80/-. All other categories of staff and servants also got increases ranging from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/-. Basic Salaries were increased so staff also gain in Provident Fund and Gratuity.

This is the fifth increase in seven years, so you can see that we are trying to improve the service conditions of staff. Our residential staff get free quarters, electricity and water, and meals and rations etc. for a very small payment.

I thank all categories of staff, especially those in the Office who help us in many ways.

We extend our good wishes to Mr. G. S. Bajwa and Miss J. Wordsworth who will be retiring soon. We thank them for all that they have done during their many years in Bishop's and wish them all the best in the future.

Conclusion

The test of what Bishop's really is will finally be judged not by the window-dressing of annual reports or the unkind gossip of disgruntled elements and idle talk at Coffee parties, but rather Bishop's will be judged by her sons past and present.

In this past year alone at least ten of our boys have become doctors and about thirty Engineers, Chartered Accountants etc., and, from the stream of fine young men who have gone out into the world, hundreds have distinguished themselves in all walks of life. They still get a good firm foundation here which enables them to do well in later life.

Of course we have our shortcomings and faults (grossly magnified by those who choose to be hostile and critical) but thank God there are masses of people who believe that we constantly endeavour to do our best. Our aim is to try our best in spite of difficulties and hurdles. We do not have ideal conditions and have no choice but to cope with growing numbers (a common problem in India today) But we still try hard.

A serious growing problem that we face of late is what I call the 'undoing' effect of Clubs and Money Culture. When prestige and position get tied up with Clubs and the new money culture, and children are encouraged to become a part of it, then surely their goals become narrow and selfish and they become the sort of boys we would not be proud of.

You teach your children each day—and I dare to remind you that it is not the words you say, but your example that counts.

All of us are leaders, being looked up to by children. Parents, teachers, religious leaders, supervisors etc. play a prominent role in the influences that shape our boys. It is a responsibility that we must all stop to consider seriously. It is a responsibility that demands a clear testimony and good example.

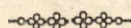
God demands that you and I take a strong stand against sin and evil. God demands we sacrifice our time and pleasure and fulfil this responsibility. He requires that we charter out a clear and decent course for our sons, by our conduct, our love, our firm faith and noble purposes.

The eye's a better pupil
And more willing than the ear.
Fine Counsel is confusing,
But example always clear.
The best of all the preachers
Are the men who live their creeds,
To see good put in action
Is what everybody needs.

If any of our sons go astray, we tend to lay the fault on somebody or something else, such as a traumatic experience, the School, Society, Cinema, the company of bad boys, etc. but whether we admit it or not our sons will be tomorrow the image of what we are today.

You claim you are no preacher, but still you preach a powerful sermon every day.

The acts of your life are the things that you teach. It is not just the things that you say.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT

Once again 1979 was a year full of activities. The zero term ended with Prize-giving and Dramatics.

The audience of parents, friends and guests were once again happy to see the little ones performing with great zeal. The happy days of childhood were visualized by 'The Magic Cupboard' being opened by two delightful fairies - Pink Fairy and Red Fairy (Class I). There were soldiers, sailors, rabbits, bears, balls, trains of all shapes and sizes, and the proud mamas and papas were happy to see their off-spring prancing and dancing on the stage.

The babes had music and movement - trees awakening, flowers blooming, butterflies flitting, to the theme of the much loved "Fascination" - the Principal said he had "Fascination" (i. e. music) for Breakfast, Lunch and tea break!

The II's presented the much loved and beautiful rendering of "The Sleeping Beauty" and the haunting strain of the music - until the princess awakens and meets the prince and the whole palace comes to life - Lords, Ladies, maid-servants, cooks, King, Queen, the lot. The finale is a dance by all, with beautiful costumes. Prince Charming and the Princess looked quite superb and stunning indeed!

"The Golden Goose" was well dramatized and acted by a host of about 100 pupils from class IV. One mother remarked "My son was a tree, now he has no costume, what can be done!" I said I would convert him into a human being and stick him on as one of the folk who follow the boy with the golden goose. We did!

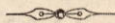
Another was heard to remark - "my son was a bush - now he is a Lady!" Quickly I remarked "You see we are very versatile!" So the Golden Goose ended happily with Jack winning the beautiful Princess. Many thanks to all the Sikh boys for acting as girls - they looked simply gorgeous. All were given strict instructions - shampoo your hair - no oil etc. etc. They obeyed to the letter!

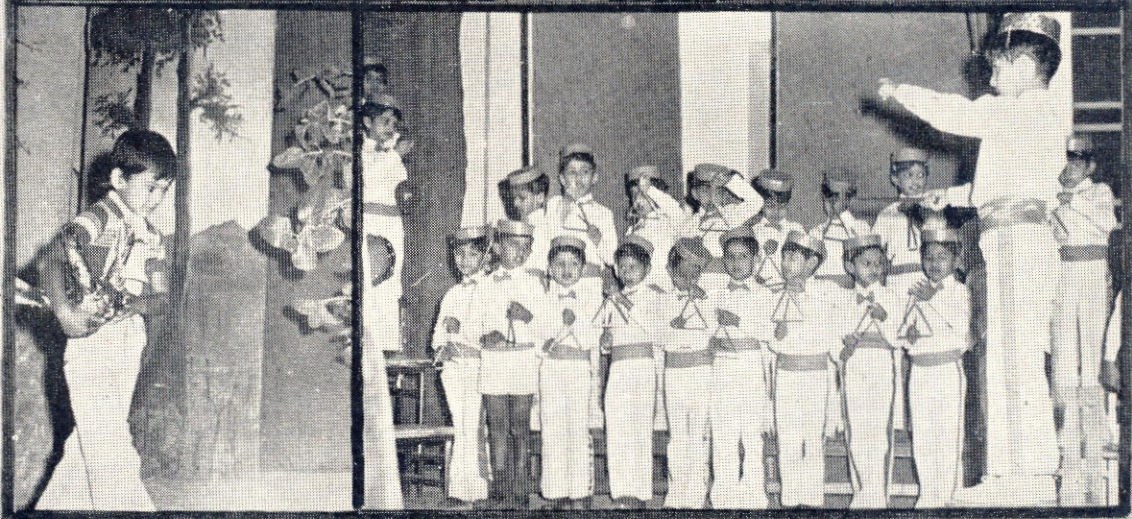
We concluded the evening to the strains of a beautiful Waltz accompanied by our 'Percussion Band' experts (3A, 3B, 3C).

All's well that ends well and a big hand for our Conductor who conducted his Band with great zest and enthusiasm (in conclusion).

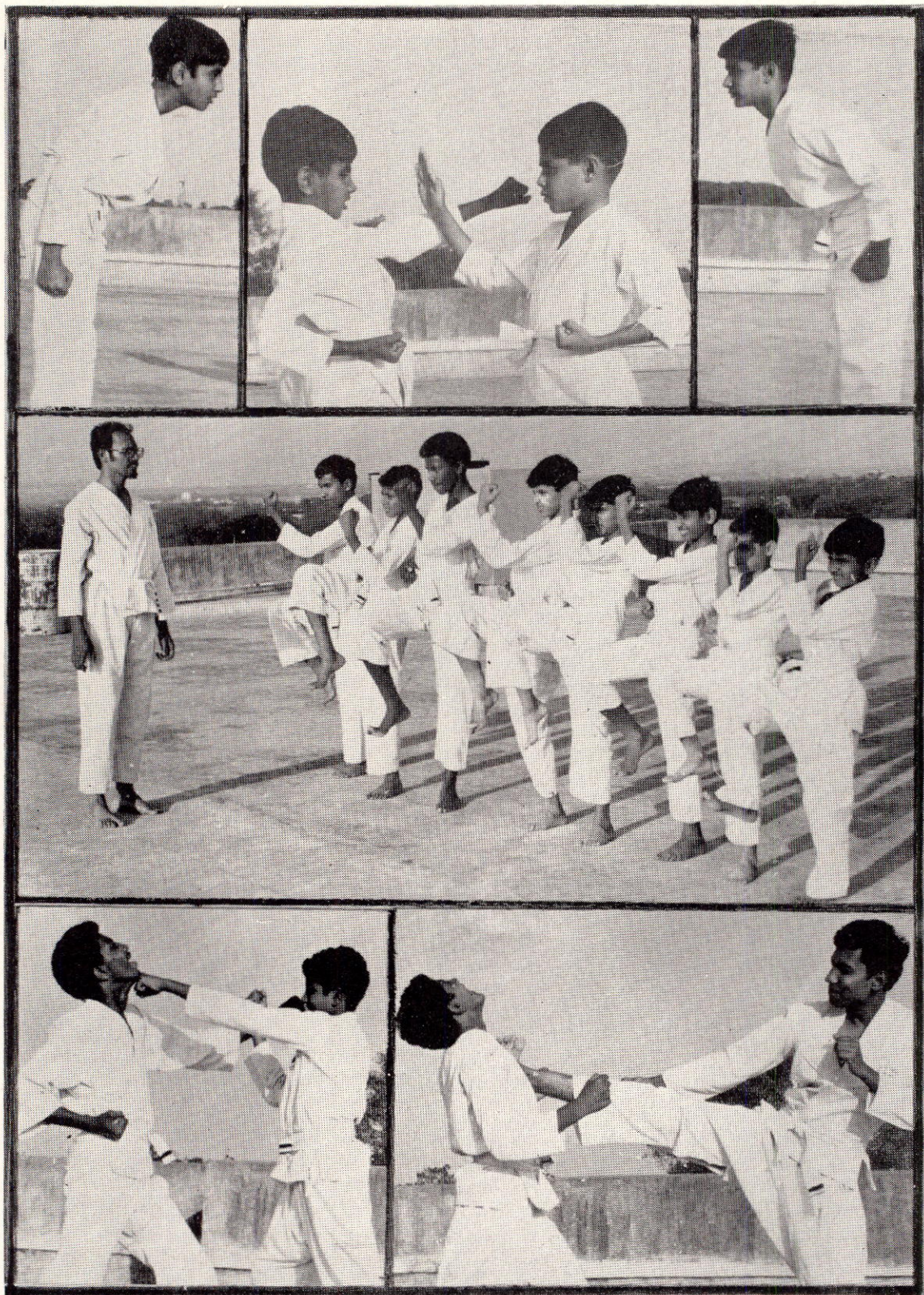
So ended an hour's Programme which had really cost the teachers and boys days of hard work and preparation. Three cheers, to boys and all teachers! Thank you, parents and friends for attending.

— Mrs. L. Roberts





JUNIOR SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT



KARATE

CLASS PRIZES 1979 (Junior School)

	Class	Class	Class
Class Prize	KG A A. Jagmag	KG B M. Nalawade	
Reading	K. Thakore	M. Nalawade	
Writing	A. Bajaj	A. Rathi	
Number Work	A. Jhamvar	M. Nalawade	
English	K. Thakore	M. Nalawade	
Progress	A. Gaikwad	S. Mutha	
Art/Craft	M. Shukla	P. Ranade	
	C. Patel	A. Rathi	
Elocution	—	J. Venkatraman	
General Proficiency	IA S. Khirid	IB Y. Ranade	IC R. Redkar
English	S. Chinoy	Z. Cursetji	A. Yadav
Mathematics	A. Gokhale	T. Nauni	P. Bhandari
Hindi	G. Saund	K. Gehani	M. Ahmed
Progress	N. Patil	R. Agarwal	R. Chetsingh
	A. Sitlani		
Handwork/Art	Z. Patell	S. J. Tabatabai	A. Shete
		G. Iyer	
Elocution	—	M. Rajda	A. Yadav
General Proficiency	2A A. Pittie	2B A. Chawla	2C S. Badgandi
English	S. Pethe	M. Kelkar	V. Arora
Mathematics	V. Patil	M. Choudhari	R. Kulkarni
Hindi	S. Somani	R. Gulati	J. Sadhale
Progress	A. Sundaresan	R. Sehgal	M. Karthik
Art/Craft	A. Kudale	C. Shinde	B. Jhamvar
Sp. Prize	—	Y. Poonawalla	—
Elocution	—	—	—
General Proficiency	3A D. Dey	3B S. Hora	3C Y. Goyal
English	U. Kothavala	S. Kifle	K. Jamuar
	V. Sood	N. Postwalla	
Mathematics	A. Manghnani	S. Hora	S. Mukherjee
Hindi	L. J. Rupani	R. Mahbubani	H. Das
Progress	P. Sawhney	D. Johnson	N. Dolas
Art/Craft	P. Sarkar	M. Saund	P. Deshmukh
		P. Paleshar	
Vegetable/Flower	G. Sawhney		
Arrangement	M. Poonawalla	—	—
Elocution	U. Kothavala	N. Postwalla	—
Fancy Dress	—	S. Kifle	—
		N. Postwalla	

	Class	Class	Class
General Proficiency	4A R. Pittie	4B D. Mukherjee	4C S. Gurjar
English	S. Rao	A. Gopal Ram	A. Anand
Mathematics	M. Berry	Y. Irani	S. Gurjar
Hindi	R. Rawat	A. Taneja	S. Gurjar
Progress	G. Sadhwani	M. Askari	K. Vijayraj
Art/Craft	A. Hakim	A. Gopal Ram	C. Iyer
Sp. Prize		P. Mutha	
		R. Whabi	
Flower Arrangement	—	W. Rawlins	—
Fancy Dress	—	R. Muthamma	—
		A. Dutta	—
		A. Hegde	—
Elocution	—	A. Gopal Ram	—

SPECIAL PRIZES

Best Scholar – Junior School – Upper Section	S. Gurjar	4 C
Lower Section	A. Chawla	2 B
Don Olliver Prize for Progress	K. Vijay Raj	4 C
Art	A. Gopal Ram	4 B
Best Actor 1979	N. Postwalla	3 B

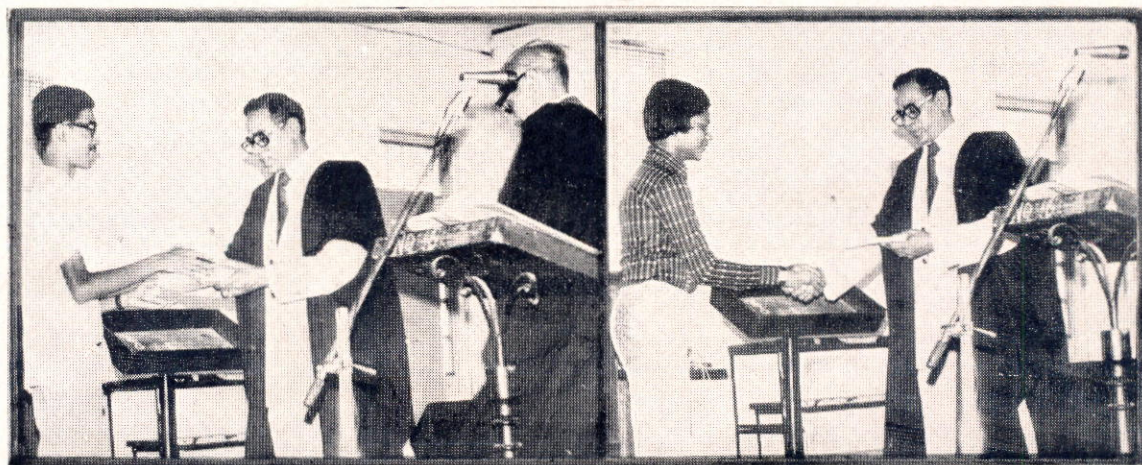
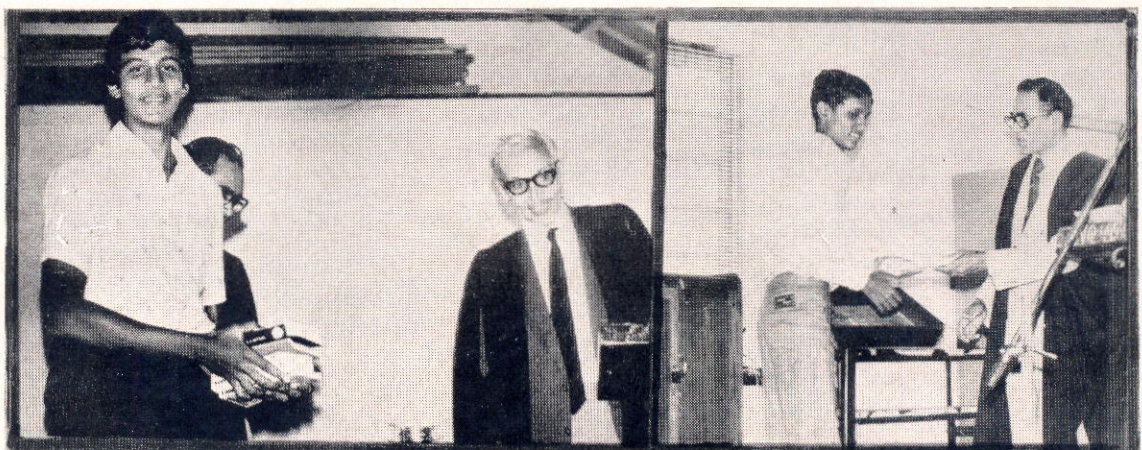
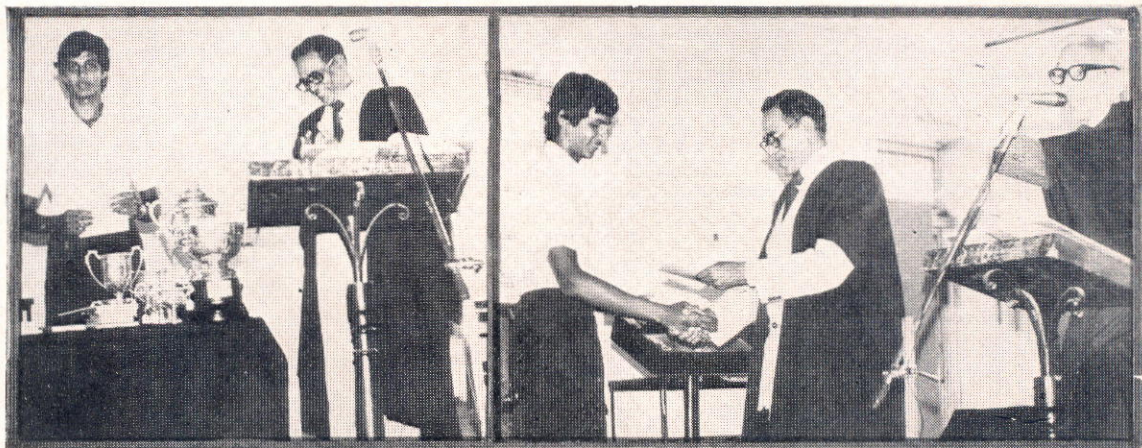
PRIZE – GIVING — SENIOR SCHOOL

There was something in the atmosphere of Bishop's that spoke eloquently of an important event about to take place. The school buildings were exceptionally clean and brightly painted and every Bishopite looked cleaner and smarter than usual. The IN and OUT gates were wide open to welcome visitors and guests.

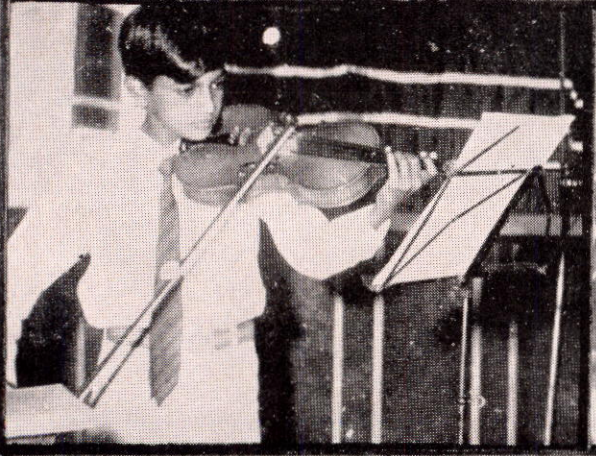
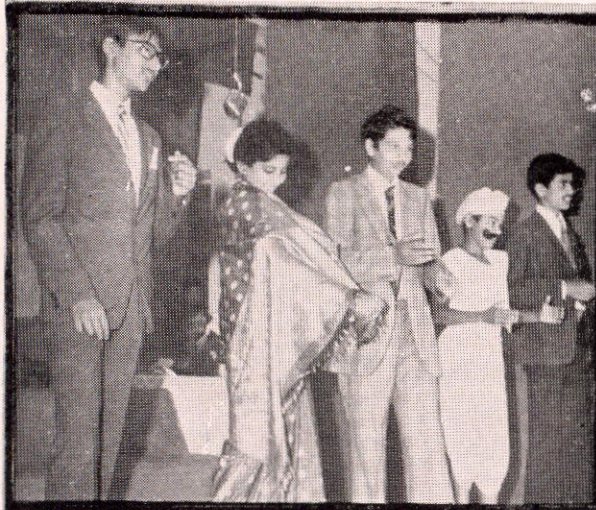
But what was really so important about all these preparations and appearances? Well it was the 16th March and the occasion was the Senior Prize Distribution and Speech Day. It was the day for which all the scholars and sportsmen had waited.

At 5.25 p. m. the Staff and prefects awaited the arrival of the Chief Guests, Brigadier and Mrs. T. R. Malhotra. The latter arrived punctually at 5.30 p. m. and were welcomed by the Principal who then introduced the Staff and prefects to them. After this, Brig. and Mrs. Malhotra and the Staff went onto the stage of Harding Hall. Two very cute and smart looking little boys then made presentations to the Chief Guests; a bouquet to Mrs Malhotra and a garland to the Brigadier.

The opening prayer was followed by the School Song and the Principal's report for the year. Before the end of the report the prize winners began lining up quietly to be in readiness for the next item on the programme, viz; prize giving. The official cameraman and some justifiably proud parents, with cameras, saw to it that the pictures of boys receiving their prizes would be available for a long time to come. After this, the Chief Guest made a speech in which he congratulated the Prize-winners and encouraged the also – rans.



SENIOR PRIZE-GIVING



SENIOR SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

During the interval there was hectic activity behind the stage getting boys ready for the concert. Mrs. Pandey and Mrs. Jadhav did a magnificent job in dressing the heroine of the Hindi play and the other actors. I, as an actor in this play, felt very thankful to them.

The Senior play, *The Monkey's Paw*, was quite well received, but would have been better appreciated if it were not for the poor acoustics of the hall and perhaps the wrong positioning of the microphones. The acting, costumes, and stage effects were good. Mr. H. O'Connor took much pains in making the play a success. The Hindi play, a comedy, went very well. There were frequent bursts of laughter from the audience, and even those whose understanding of Hindi is not very good were able to get the gist of what was going on and have a laugh every now and then. Mr. A. and S. Fernandes were the masters responsible for this good show.

Regrettably, before the third play, "*The Missing Formula*," began the hall was half empty, but those who remained did enjoy this item which had been produced by Mrs. Mirchandani and Mr. Daniell.

— B. Tripathi, XC

CLASS PRIZES 1979 (Senior School)

General Proficiency	5A G. Chadha	5B K. Jain	5C V. Magotra
English	G. Chadha	K. Jain	V. Magotra
			A. Gangoli
Mathematics	A. Mirpuri	S. Vartak	V. Magotra
Hindi	G. Chadha	K. Jain	V. Magotra
Progress	K. Shah	R. Kapur	S. Engineer
General Proficiency	6A N. Pangam	6B R. Khanna	6C S. Hardikar
English	S. Jinnah	U. Rao	S. Mirchandani
Mathematics	S. Bhatia	U. Rao	S. Hardikar
Hindi	R. Pandhare	R. Sasane	R. Jessani
Progress	J. D'Souza	V. Berry	Y. Khan
General Proficiency	7A R. Karkare	7B A. Vaidya	7C D. Das
English	N. Chaturvedi	A. Vaidya	D. Das
			P. Chadha
Mathematics	S. Hashemi	A. Nawalrai	D. Das
Hindi	N. Chaturvedi	A. Srivastava	D. Das
Progress	S. Kothari	P. Mulik	J. Poonawalla
The Anand Datta Prize for the Best Scholar in Class 7			D. Das
General Proficiency	8A A. Kochhar	8B P. Singh	8C A. Dodani
English	A. Gangoli	P. Singh	A. Tipnis-Menon
Mathematics	V. Rana	P. Singh	N. Dhingra
		B. S. Singh	
Hindi	V. Rana	P. Singh	S. Konkar
		M. Bajpayee	S. Sadhwani
Progress	F. Kanga	P. Mantri	P. Kalandari
The Rajendra Tembwalkar Prize for the Best Scholar in Class 8			A. Kochhar

General Proficiency	9A U. Belsare	9B S. Apte	9C S. Pramanik
English	S. DeSouza	S. Apte	S. Pramanik
Mathematics	U. Belsare	S. Bagga	S. Melwani
Hindi	U. Belsare	S. Apte	S. Pramanik
Progress		H. Watchha	R. Sharma
Mrs. Anima Ganguly Cup for the Best Scholar in Class 9			R. Lad
			S. Apte

General Proficiency	10A V. Deboo	10B K. Idnani	10C R. Konkar
English	V. Deboo	K. Idnani	N. Kulkarni
Mathematics	V. Deboo	C. Shetty	N. Kulkarni
Hindi	R. Kumar	K. Idnani	N. Kulkarni
Progress	R. S. Doshi	P. Oswal	} M. S. Aujla R. Rangwani

(Class 10 prizes are awarded on the results of the I. C. S. E. Examination)

SPECIAL PRIZES For Middle and Senior School

Mrs. Chinmulgund's Prize for General Knowledge	Middle School	N. Sibal
	Senior School	P. Singh
Handicraft	Middle School	N. Sharaballi
	Senior School	M. Pillay
Art	Middle School	S. Sharon
	Senior School	V. Salunke
Dramatics	Hindi	S. Bodas &
	English	A. Khudanpur
Mr. Mulleneaux's Cups for	Mathematics	N. Parmar
	Science	V. Deboo
Governor's Cups for	Proficiency	V. Deboo
	Progress	R. Konkar
Best All Round Boy in Each House	Arnould	P. Lonkar
	Bishop's	V. Deboo
	Harding	A. Panjwani
	Mansfield	F. Dholoo
Best All Round Boy in the School		V. Deboo

Rex Ludorum	Juniors	R. Mehta
	Seniors	S. Doshi
Head Boy's Prize		M. Nimbalkar
Best Scholars	Middle School	D. Das
	Senior School	R. Konkar
Prize for Public Speaking		A. Wagle
The Anis Jamadar Prize for Gentlemanly Qualities		C. Meher-Homji
		A. Khudanpur
		C. Shetty
Robey Study Cup		Arnould House
Major Brown's Cup for Hindi		N. Kulkarni
Major K. Chhibbar's Cup for Science		V. Deboo
Head Boy's Cup for P. T.		K. Bhamvra
Major Khanolkar's Cup for Gymnastics		K. Bhamvra
Mrs. Gladys O'Leary's Cup for History & Geography		R. Konkar
Principal A.E. Lunn's Cup for Geography		N. Kulkarni
Brig. R. A. R. O'Connor's Trophy for Leadership		M. Nimbalkar
Brig. S. R. Bagga's Shield for the Inter House P. T. Display Competition to be awarded for the first time in 1980-81.		

HOUSE AWARDS

	Sub-Juniors	Juniors	Seniors
Long Distance Runs	Arnould	Arnould	Harding
Athletics	Harding	Arnould	Arnould
Hockey	Arnould	Arnould	Arnould
Football	Bishop's	Arnould	Arnould
Cricket	Bishop's	Bishop's	Bishop's
Indoor Games			Arnould
Volley Ball			Arnould
Basket Ball			Arnould
P. T. A. Rolling Trophy for General Knowledge		Senior	Harding
		Junior	Harding
Cock House - Runner - Up			Bishop's
Cock House			Arnould

BISHOP'S SCHOOL - INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS - 1979

On Independence Day, 15th August, all institutions all over India have special functions to celebrate the anniversary of the day on which India was freed from the British yoke. Among these, the function held annually at Bishop's is, though on a small scale, very impressive.

This year, the Independence Day celebrations got off to a prompt and smart start, with the presentation of flags. The flags of the school and four houses were impressively fluttering, as we began our prayers for India, followed by a hymn, a reading by the Head Boy, "Where the Mind is without fear," and the pledge. And then we could see our country's flag fluttering from the flag-post on top of Lunn Block, as the Scout Troop Leader unfurled it. We next sang the National Anthem loudly and with great vivacity and enthusiasm.

Two Table Monitors were appointed, and we then had a talk by the Principal, in which he asked us to remember those selfless and heroic persons who had fought bravely for independence, and even laid down their lives for it. It was sad, he said, that our present day leaders and people are forgetting those who had sacrificed everything they had for what is ours today - our country. He spoke on the International Year of the Child, and what we could do for the poor and unfortunate children. After this talk, we had a break of 15 minutes, during which the Junior School put up a very impressive Fancy Dress Parade indeed, which was liked and applauded by all.

After the interval, the seniors went to the Hall for their elocution competition, which was divided into three categories, according to Classes. We had three eminent judges in Sister Mary Anslem from the Convent of St. Mary, Panch Howd, Mrs. Bharucha, the present Teacher of Speech Training in St. Mary's School, and Mr. Ken Wyatt who is engaged in Village Mission work. A large number of boys recited their poems, some outstandingly well, some were good and a few were fairly good. The standard on the whole was encouraging. The winners were awarded certificates a few days later. Mrs. Roshan Bharucha commended the boys on their discipline, which is a very good thing for Bishop's. Keep it up! Sister Mary Anslem gave the boys encouragement and some very useful tips

Thus, the Independence Day celebrations ended on the same bright note they started on, making the whole morning quite enjoyable.

— V. Deboo, X-A

ARNOULD HOUSE NOTES

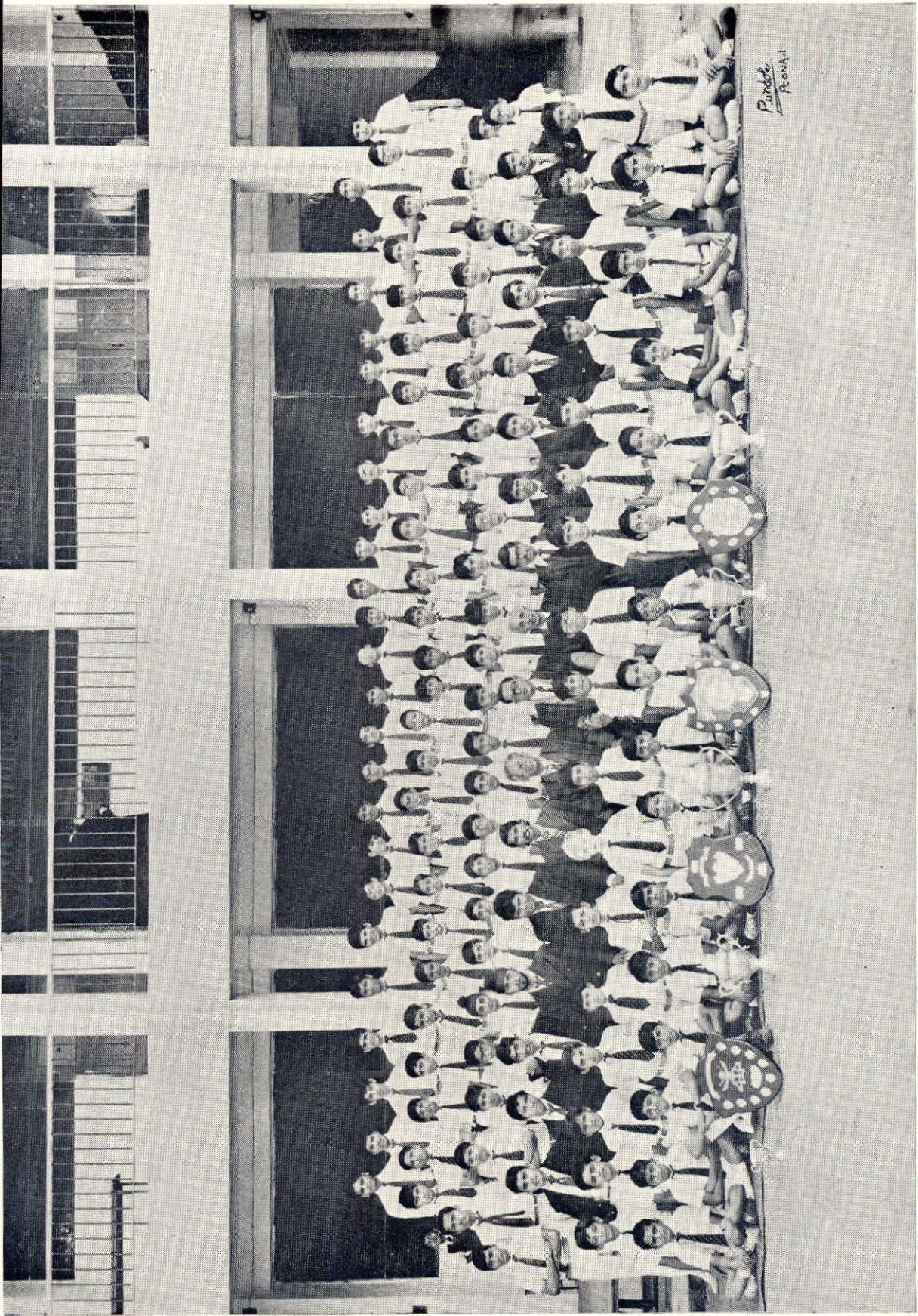
House Masters : Mr. N. V. John
 Mr. A. L Raj
 Mr. A. K. Thakore

House Captain : R. Sydney

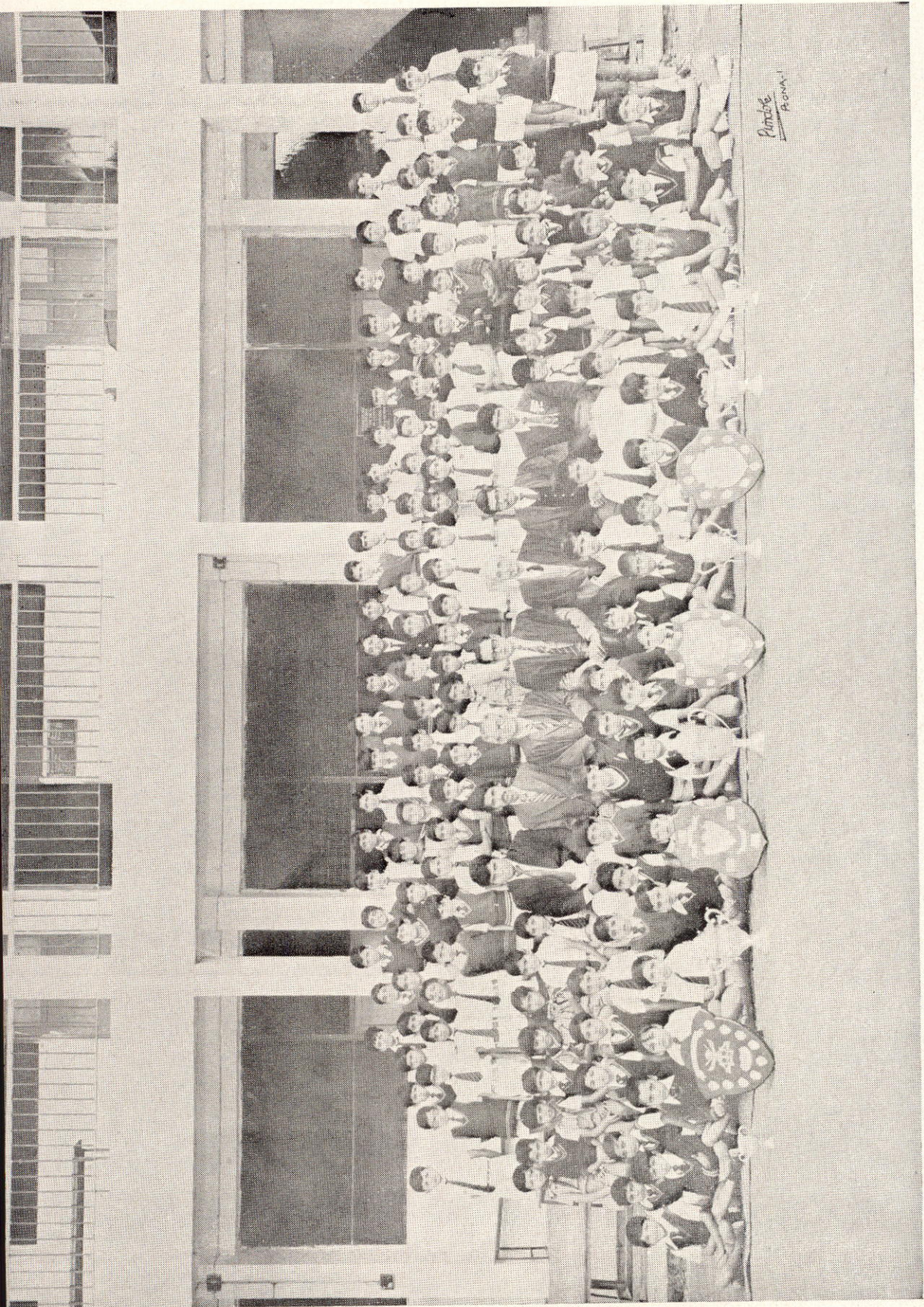
House Vice Captain : M. Mullan

For the second time in two years our colours continue to fly, this time a bit higher as the runner-up house were 32 points behind. We captured our points by coming first in all games except cricket (in which we decided to give Bishop's a chance).

For a start we stole first place in the long distance runs.



COCK HOUSE (ARNOULD) SENIORS



Pimble
House

COCK HOUSE (ARNOULD) JUNIORS

Athletics gave us another victory mainly because of the mass participation of our boys who really tried hard. Special mention must be made of our Aces, M. Mullan, K. Delvis, V. Joshi, S. Deshmukh, A. Deshmukh and A. Nawalrai who did very well.

Hockey was our cup of tea. It gave us a further lead over the rival houses. Coming first in Sub-Juniors and Seniors was a bit hard for them to digest.

Football was not expected to be ours but we came first against all the laws of prediction because of the sheer determination and selflessness of our boys.

Cricket was the the only game in which we were not first. Anyway as Runners-up we were assured of the Cock-House trophy. Our nearest rivals were at least 25 points behind.

By coming first in Basketball and Volley ball we achieved our Century, a points total which has not been reached for many years.

We owe this to all the boys of our house, young and old alike. Even boys who have given their time to come and cheer their representatives have contributed.

Special mention should be made of our major points earners, namely, C. Dupratt, S. Devasthale, R. Mehta, M. Mullan, M. Aujla, S. Cherian, S. Jadhav, V. Joshi and some others.

The House Captain Robin Sydney, alongwith all other House Prefects, would like to thank and congratulate every individual for this triumph. They especially thank the house masters for their help during the course of the year and wish the house many more victories in the years to come.

— R. George, 9B

BISHOP'S HOUSE NOTES

House Masters Mr. H. O'Connor
 Mr. D. Innis
 Mr. V. Jagtap.

House Captain : S. Doshi

House Vice Capt. : V. Deboo

At long last, Bishop's have done it! We are out of the rut! After moving from fourth place to third and back, we came second this year, a feat possible only through the combined efforts of our boys and our masters, who have sweated all the way to bring us here after so many years. It just shows that co-operation is often better than individual brilliance, for we did not have many individuals to shout about.

In the Long Distance runs, we came third, and we were quite satisfied. We looked forward to a good result in the Athletics. Here, however, lack of numbers hampered us, and, in spite of a good showing by many boys, we occupied the last place again. We came second in the Tug-of-War, thanks to Mr. H. O'Connor.

Then came our trump cards, games where team work matters; hockey, in which we came second, football, in which we came second again, and finally, we hit the jackpot in cricket, by swamping the other three houses in all divisions and romping home with 21 points. In table-tennis we came second, but in badminton and basketball & volleyball, we took fourth and third places respectively. But our performance in the last two games mentioned was not too good because most of our 10th standard boys did not take part, since the final placings were decided before these games— we were a clear second.

Our seniors performed consistently well throughout the year, in spite of being least fancied. Our Juniors and Sub-Juniors too performed very creditably. As I have said before, it was our combined team effort that has got us where we are; that, and the unfailing help and encouragement of our masters. Thank you very much, Sirs!

This year, Harding and Mansfield have bitten the dust at our expense, and next year, all I can say is, Arnould, watch out!

Here's wishing Bishop's House all the very best of luck in the years to come. Samtani and company, next year we hope to see the house's photograph in the Mitre, under the heading "Cock House"!

Thanks a lot, boys and sirs, and keep it up!

— V. Deboo (House V. Capt.)

HARDING HOUSE NOTES

House Masters : Mr. Fletcher
Mr. Daniell
Mr. Aitkins

House Captain : M. Nimbalkar
Vice Captain : A. Panjwani

The first term began with the Long Distance run and everyone took part in it. Although we had individual winners like P. Joshi in Div. II who stood first, B. Russom in Div. III who also stood first and in the senior-most division, M. Nimbalkar, who stood second, in the over-all results we placed third. This was a bit disappointing seeing we had so many good performers. We fared quite well in the athletic heats and thanks to P. Joshi and B. Russom, the blue shirts carried off two of the Victor Ludorum cups.

Our house came second in hockey which was a step ahead of last year. In the second term we practised quite a lot for football but in spite of our best efforts we came third. Our indoor games performance was very good. In badminton, the leading players in the school, S. Bagga, P. Joshi and C. Shetty, enabled us to secure top honours. Thus ended the second term.

The next term began with cricket in which we did not fare as well as expected and ended securing third place. In Volley ball and basket ball we jumped one step up and came second. The overall result found us in third place. Once again we rescued ourselves from being last. This, of course, is not an achievement to be proud of. I do hope that, in the years to come, Harding and Bishop's Houses will break the virtual monopoly that Mansfield and Arnould have had for years on the Cock House trophy.

My best wishes for good luck for the future Harding House Captains and I hope they achieve what we failed to do.

— M. Nimbalkar, X A

MANSFIELD HOUSE NOTES

House Masters : Mr. R. Barrow
Mr. D. Choudhari

House Captain : J. Mahtani
Vice Captain : J. Datt

This year was perhaps the most unsuccessful year for this great House. Instead of coming first or second, we came last. Now it's not good to make excuses, but I think I can justly put forward a few reasons for our failure which were more or less out of our control.

The chief reason for our decline was the departure of many outstanding performers just before their event could take place. Nayak, Young and Nelthropp did not take part in the Long Distance runs and they were the best we had. Just before the athletic heats our star runner, J. Datt, fractured his hand. Again in hockey we lost the services of Nayak, Merchant and Irani, no mean players, I can assure you.

As if all this was not bad enough, Chainani, the best table tennis player in the School, left shortly before the House matches started. To make a long story short, three stalwarts were not available for one reason or another when they were most needed in the Inter-House competitions. Need I say more ?

Having said so much, we must congratulate Arnould House on their excellent all round performance. They were indeed worthy winners of the Cock-House trophy. Bishop's, the second House, in order of merit was far behind them. Even if we had tried our best, I don't think we could have beaten Arnould.

We would like to thank our House master, Mr. R. Barrow, for all the help he gave us in athletics and other games. He never let our reverses get him down.

In conclusion, I wish Mansfield all the best in the years to come.

— J. Mahtani, XA

1979 - INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

In the developing countries, most of the children from birth to about fifteen years of age, are, according to international standards, under-nourished, owing to the extreme poverty of their parents. They do not go to school and therefore remain illiterate. This age is also the main target of many of the world's diseases.

Abuse of children is also found in the developed countries, and, many orphanages are run on inadequate funds. But the worst of it is found in the under-developed and developing countries. In many such countries, few children ever reach the age of fifteen years.

Keeping these facts in view, the United Nations Organisation declared 1979 as the International Year of the Child, a year in which they would do their utmost to bring these facts to the attention of the public, and get the people to help these unlucky ones. Of course, this cannot be achieved in a short period of one year, but this work will be carried on until the objective is achieved.

The efforts towards achieving this end, in India, have been encouraging so far. This is not at all surprising because India is a developing country with a vast population and the problem is most pronounced in the developing countries. The Government has paid special attention to the establishment of schools, especially in the rural areas where they are needed most.

The Government is also organising a Children's Relay March. Volunteers will be chosen from every district of the country. These, on receiving a pre-arranged signal, will march towards New Delhi in a sort of Relay. In the end, at New Delhi, the last batch will arrive with banners and posters. These children will mix with foreign children invited there as guests, so that they can exchange ideas and information about each other's countries. This relay march will be held from the 2nd of October to the 14th of November.

In addition to such Government-organized help, the citizens of India are contributing towards this cause. They are paying money as donations to the various Children's welfare Societies and orphanages. They are also helping to set up more Homes for retarded children.

Various institutions have helped by collecting funds from their members to support such societies and are doing much social work. A good example of such an institution is the Bishop's School, Poona. This school has decided to support two orphans in Panch Howd. For this purpose they are collecting funds from the school parents, friends and well-wishers. The money so obtained will be deposited in a bank and the interest will be used to support needy children.

If more and more schools and organizations contribute in as many ways as possible they can help a lot in making this world a better place to live in for the under-privileged ones.

Since the writing of this article, our school collection, including the money obtained from our annual Fete, amounted to Rs. 18,500. A Rs. 18,000, five-year fixed deposit account was opened on behalf of St. Mary's Convent, Panch Howd, for the sole purpose of supporting one child with the monthly interest of Rs. 150/-. The remaining Rs. 500/- was given to the Convent for making Christmas a happier occasion for the children.

by Sudheer Apte, 9B

PUBLIC SPEAKING IN BISHOP'S

1979 has been an eventful year for Public Speaking competitions. Three competitions were held outside, sponsored by external organisations for teams representing their schools and also individuals; in addition, the traditional Elocution competition was held in our school on August the 15th and each class from the middle and senior sections was represented.

The Bishop's School did itself proud by being amongst the first three in two competitions and, in the third, two candidates were selected among the final eight speakers after the elimination rounds, but unfortunately neither was able to come within the first three.

The first competition, organised by the Oriental Bank of Commerce, was the debate that 'More education makes better citizens'. Asit Wagle and Bharat Tripathi spoke for the motion and it was opposed by Anant Khudanpur and Samir Bodas. Bishop's School was placed third and Asit Wagle was awarded the third individual prize.

The second competition was organised on an inter-school basis at St. Mary's School. For Bishop's School, Asit Wagle proposed the motion 'Democracy in India has failed' and Anant Khudanpur opposed the motion. Bishop's School won this competition and was awarded a handsome trophy and Asit Wagle had the distinction of being adjudged the best individual speaker.

The Poona Herald had organised a public speaking competition for students sponsored by various schools. In the first elimination round the subjects were 'What I want to be and why' or 'The Ideal Parent'. In the 2nd round, the topic was 'What will the International Year of the Child achieve?' Chetan Shetty and Asit Wagle reached the final round when ex-tempore speeches had to be delivered on any subject chosen from a hat. Despite their best efforts neither of the two Bishop's boys made the winning trio.

In the School competition held on 15th of August, from the Senior section the winner was Chetan Shetty with his recitation of 'East is East and West is West' by Rudyard Kipling. Asit Wagle stood second with a soliloquy from Macbeth by Shakespeare. Nitin Kulkarni and Kishu Idnani were joint third with their recitation of 'Sohrab and Rustum' (an extract) by Matthew Arnold and 'Ode to a Nightingale' by John Keats respectively.

This has been a creditable performance and with more help and coaching from the members of staff and a greater willingness to have a go from the students, it should be possible to achieve even better results in the coming academic year.

— by Asit Wagle, 10C

THE PARENT-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION G. K. COMPETITIONS

The G. K. Competitions are very popular among the boys. They love to take part in them. The competitions took place after the Terminal examinations in December. They were supposed to be held in April, but were postponed to December after the exams. I think that this was a very good idea because all the boys felt free

The Junior Competition was held first, Harding versus Mansfield and Arnould versus Bishop's. Mansfield fought well but the issue was never in doubt from start to finish. Nevertheless the losers are worthy of praise, especially A. Vaidya who was mainly responsible for their putting up a fight. Harding also combined extremely well as a team. Then came the second match between Bishop's and Arnould. It was a close affair, the lead going either way until in the end Arnould scraped through to the finals. Both the teams performed very well indeed. In the finals it became rather dull. Arnould gave up without much of a fight. But credit must go to Harding again for their team effort. Harding were deserving winners.

The Senior Competition was held the next day. This was the competition everyone had been waiting for because the questions would be much harder. Harding competed with Arnould and then Bishop's competed with Mansfield. The Harding and Arnould match was very interesting. Arnould took an early lead and held on to it for quite some time. Then a dramatic event took place. Harding wrested the lead and went on to win the match that had looked like Arnould's for the taking! The next match was a little more one-sided with Bishop's taking an early lead and holding on to it till the end to meet Harding in the final. They won by a mere two points. The credit of keeping Mansfield so close to overhauling their opponents must go to A. Wagle. In the finals it was again a close affair till the time was almost up. Then Harding stepped on the gas leaving Bishop's stranded in its wake. They romped home easy winners of the Senior Competition, thereby making it a double having already won the Junior Competition. They richly deserved the honour.

The boys who participated in this competition were : Arnould Seniors Ahluwalia, Idnani, Daryanani and Meher-Homji. The Juniors were Kamath, Sibal, V. Nawalrai, and Sharon. The Bishop's House seniors were Sanghvi, P. Singh, Deboo and Maolankar and the Bishop's Juniors were A. Chaturvedi, A. Gangoli, Sant Singh and K. Kundanmal. The Harding House seniors were Kulkarni, Mahadevan, Joshi and Kishnani and their Juniors were Sarathey, Vij, Sharaballi and Srivastava. A. Wagle, S. Bodas, and S. Tripathi represented the Mansfield House Seniors and A. Vaidya, R. Ranade and Kochhar represented their Juniors.

Mr. Beaman was the time-keeper and Mrs. Wagle most kindly organised & conducted the competitions. They were a success.

— Ajay H. Gangoli, 8A.

THE INTER SCHOOL PUNE HERALD I. Y. C. G. K. CONTEST

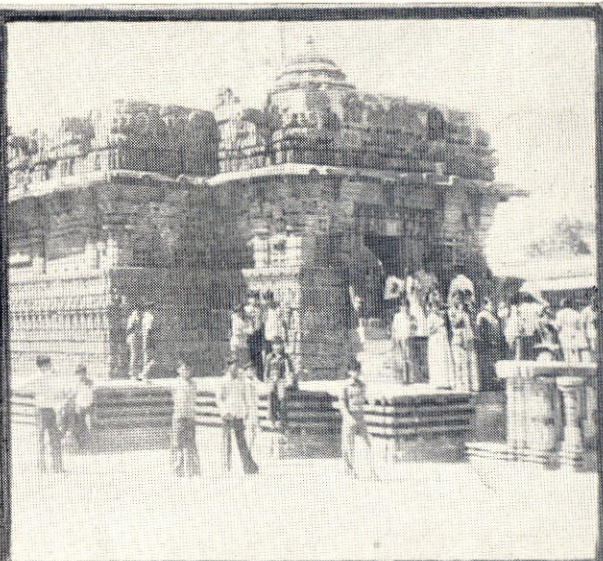
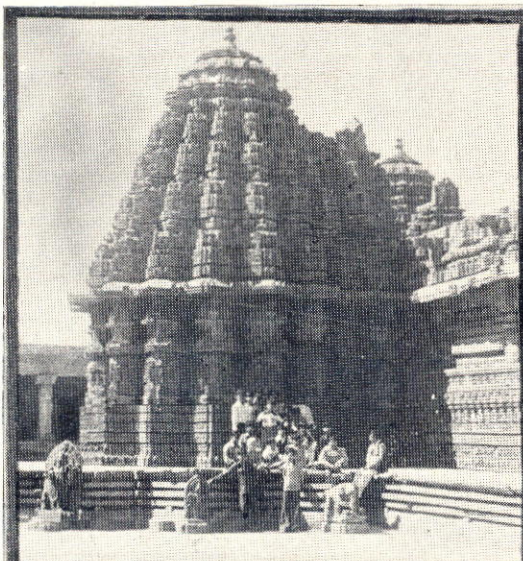
This contest was organised by the combined efforts of the Pune Herald and the Weikfield company. It was held between the 16th and 19th of August, at the Pune club. The Bishop's School was represented by P. Joshi, L. Mahadevan and J. Maolankar with Kulkarni, as substitute. The master who came with us was Mr. Beaman. We went by the school car and reached the club by 2.15 p.m. The lots were drawn and our school was pitted against the Kendriya Vidyalaya, Southern Command in Group A.

The questions were quite easy to begin with. Then they became harder. The contest between us and the Kendriya Vidyalaya was absorbing and at the end of the allotted number of questions, the scores tied. So questions were asked until one of the schools got one point ahead. Unfortunately this happened in the Kendriya Vidyalaya's favour at 27-26. But we had an argument about a question they had not answered correctly. So we were announced the winners. But the Compere announced a tie and both schools got into the next round.

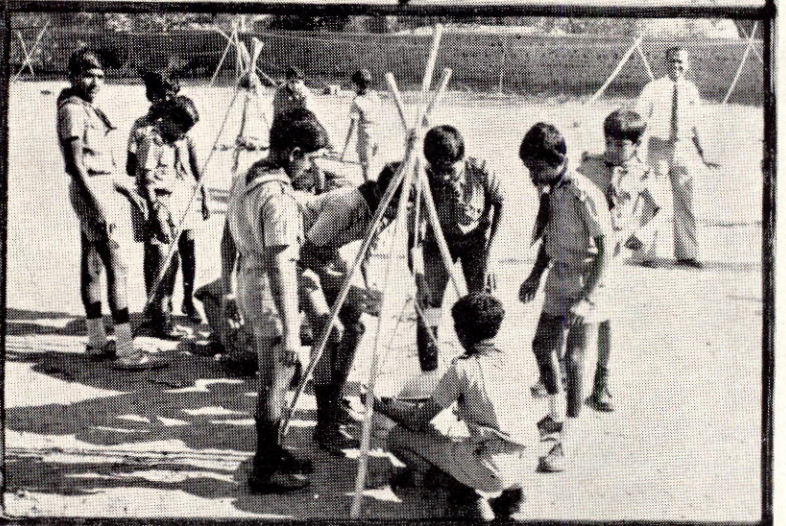
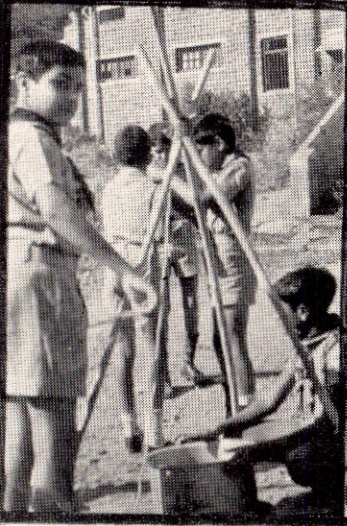
The next day our school was scheduled to meet St. Vincents'. This time the questions were quite tough. We lost by a margin of 4 points, at 8-12. Again there was a doubt, but we did not complain as even then we would have lost. Ultimately this contest was won by the Kendriya Vidyalaya, B.E.G. On the 19th was the prize distribution where all participants were given a certificate and four packets of custard powder.

This year we didn't go very far in this contest, but we enjoyed taking part. We did better, however, in September in the Pune Jaycees Quiz in which we were runners-up.

— L. Mahadevan, 10A



SOUTH INDIAN EXCURSION



SCOUTING

ELOQUENCE

One of the efforts to celebrate the International Year of the Child by the Pune Herald was interesting. It involved first the preparation and recitation of a piece supposedly written by the individuals (which was true in most cases). This gave the selectors the opportunity to weed out the unconvincing speakers. The speeches were about the orators' choice in career and their reason for their choice. All the various politicians, housewives, doctors, and lawyers spoke up and gave interesting speeches. I quite remember the politician, a girl from St. Helena's, who was bent on being crooked to the core and wanted to make as much money as possible through corruption, and retire rich. Shetty C and Wagle managed to get through this round easily.

The second round was more interesting from the viewpoint of both the judges and the audience. The prospect of picking out a chit and speaking on the topic written on it without preparation, extempore speaking, that is, was quite unnerving for most of the orators. The topics varied from humour to being the Education Minister, and to quite imaginative topics like being given the opportunity to go to a country of your choice and what you would like to do there.

In such competitions, confidence counts and can make the difference between being selected and not being selected, no matter how brilliant you are. I noticed that the boy who came first did so purely because he oozed with confidence though he had few good points about being a good Education Minister. The girl who came second was a smart girl with good imagination. The third who spoke about what he'd do if he won a lottery ticket gave us a veritable lecture, but spoke so long he had to get some place. Obviously the ability to marshal one's thoughts is very important and so is the ability to speak confidently and for a sufficient duration to convince the audience and the judges that you know what you are talking about.

Reciting Shakespeare certainly makes boys in the Nines confident about speaking and I'm quite certain that given the opportunity and sufficient practice in speaking impromptu, the boys will increase both their imagination and their General knowledge. 'It is not without trying that one can succeed.'

— A Khudanpur, 10C

SCOUTING

From the point of view of collection of money for various good causes the scouts did quite well during the year under consideration. Where activities of other kinds were concerned we could, perhaps, have done better.

On Republic Day in January 1979 a large number of scouts assembled on the terrace of Lunn Block where they took part in the unfurling of the flag ceremony. The small batch of prefects performed their duties commendably well and the response from the boys was good. After flag-breaking the boys had tracking and the rest of the day was spent in going through the normal school activities.

Sister Columba was very appreciative of the Rs. 250/- collected for the Eventide Home by the Scouts during the Fete. Most of the money came through the selling of lime juice and snacks.

For the flood-stricken people of Morvi, the scouts sold newspapers, bottles and magazines and thereby raised a sum of Rs. 415.05 by the 17th of January 1980.

The IYC fund benefited by Rs. 131.30 as a result of the class to class collection made by the scouts with their jingling boxes. Although we wish we could have done better, we did also manage to raise Rs. 150/- for the blind.

About sixteen scouts attended a training camp at the Scout Headquarters. Second class tests were done, and P. L's and A. P. L's received special Training in leadership. These four days were a well-spent period for us.

We thank Mr. A. Fernandes and Mr. S. Fernandes for their help and guidance and the Senior scouts for their help in organisation in general.

— Sigmund DeSouza, IXA



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme activities this year were in full swing and many boys qualified for their respective bronze and silver awards.

This scheme is ideal for young adults. It is divided into four parts 1. Physical Activity 2. Expeditions 3. Community service and 4. Interests.

This year there were many new entrants for the scheme in the school.

Expeditions : As far as the expeditions were concerned we had three, starting with the one to Matheran. We went to Neral by train, got off there and started our walk up to Matheran. It was quite an experience. We had to climb up thorough the narrow mountain paths. But we made it and reached the 'Hermitage'. The Hermitage is owned by the Anglican Church and is a camping spot with two bungalows attached to each other, with a kitchen and a small chapel in the compound. It is a very good camp site surrounded by the jungle and is a very quiet spot. Schools from Bombay and Pune send their boys to the Hermitage and pay an annual fee for the usage. This camp was only for our training. We were given talks on first aid and how to treat snake bite by Cdr. T. de'Almeida. After three days of enjoyment, excitement and training we came back to school.

The second expedition was for our qualification. We had to go to one of Shivaji's forts which was later captured by the Mughals. It was a matter of going by train to Lonavala, getting off and starting our walk up to the fort. It was a slippery climb as it was raining heavily on the way up. But the boys stuck to it very gamely and we reached the top only to be greeted by monkeys. As we were all drenched we changed our clothes and got ourselves ready for some cooking or else we would all have had to go hungry! We cooked some rice and dal and ate it happily. After this we had a lovely view of the countryside from the top and just after twilight everyone except boys on guard duty were asleep. We had to do guard duty in turn because the monkeys there proved a nuisance by coming in and pulling out stuff from some boys' bags.

The next day dawned and soon everybody had had their breakfast and packed their bags as we had to try to get down before it started raining. That was the final phase of our qualification for the award. Later there was to be another camp for community service.

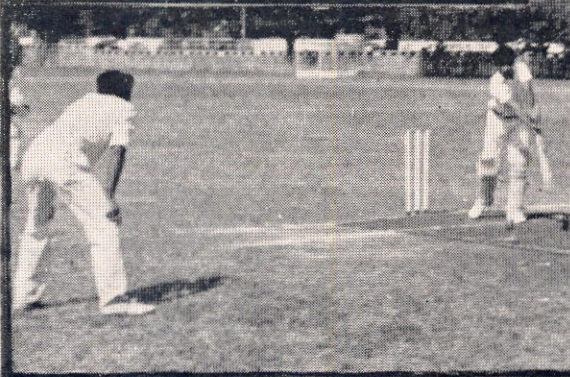
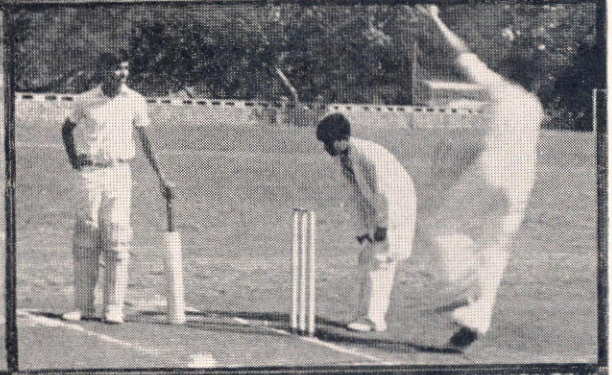


Old Boys and Staff Relay Teams



MANOMOY GANGULY
(See Principal's Report)

FOUNDER'S DAY — CRICKET MATCHES





ATHLETICS ON A. S. P. T. CINDER TRACK

Our aim in this camp was to do some productive work such as to paint doors, windows, chairs etc. and also some carpentry work.

The boys were divided into four groups. Every day groups were allotted cooking, scraping doors and windows, painting them, cleaning glass panes and painting furniture. This camp was a bit of an 'indoor' experience. The routine went on smoothly, the weather being the only 'spanner in the works' during the six days of camp. But the boys' unflagging spirits remained undaunted. For some fun, in the evenings we had organised games of tombola, singing and inter group quiz competitions. This was all for the expedition part of it for the boys in the group.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY : Physical activity was arranged in the school itself. Every Friday we had to go on with tests under the guidance of Mr. H. O'Connor.

INTERESTS : Each boy had to choose his own interest and had to get at least 6 months of experience in his interest or hobby. There are special courses advised which the boys had to follow.

For their ability and efficient performance sixteen boys were given the bronze awards and 5 boys received silver awards. Two ex-Bishopites, Sanjay Rao and Ondre Morris, who did half their gold award course in school are on the verge of getting gold awards.

That concluded the D. E. A. S. activities for 1979, and for helping us in our performances in this scheme I should thank Mr. G. O'Connor and Mr. H. O'Connor because it was under their guidance and supervision that we achieved the honour of getting awards. Thank you sirs!

— S. Vasant Kumar, 9 C

ATHLETICS 1979

1. THE LONG DISTANCE RUNS

The Long Distance races took place on Friday 2nd February 1979. The boys of Divisions 3, 4, and 5 had to run one round of the race course, which is 2,500 m, while Divisions 1 and 2 had to run two rounds and a bit.

First, Division 5 ran and as the boys were too many, there had to be two groups. The boy whose timing was the best in either group was the winner. The winner here was R. Wood who smashed the record by nearly half a minute, clocking 10 min 11 sec.

R Wood (Senior) came first in Division 4 clocking 9 min. 50 secs.

B. Russom won the Division 3 long distance run. He led from the start. Although at the half-way stage the lead was very much, K. Delvis nearly caught him with a good sprint in the end. M. Marley came third.

In Division 2, P. Joshi won, leading from start to finish, in 19 min 7.5 secs. Mathews and Mubarakai fought it out for the second place till the last 5 m in which the former sprinted ahead.

The Division I boys ran the last race with Mullan first followed by Nimbalkar and Sudarshan, a surprise third. In this race hardly fifteen boys took part with only about 6-8 boys completing the course.

2. OTHER TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS

These were held at Sub-Area ground, with the finals on the track at A. S. P. T. on Saturday, 24th February 1979.

In Division 5, R. Khanna and S. Mukherjee, both of Mansfield House, were the joint Victor Ludorum winners. R. Khanna won both 50 and 200 m and Mukherjee the 80 m. This year no record of Division 5 was broken, whereas usually Division 5 records are the only records constantly bettered.

In Division 4, S. Baljit Singh, also of Mansfield House, won the Victor Ludorum. He won the 400 m in a record time of 68.4 secs, clipping nearly 3 secs. off the previous record and then strode to win both 100 and 200 m, both in record times. He was followed by S. Sant Singh.

The Long jump was also won by him, making a clean sweep of his Division's events.

The Division 3 victor Ludorum winner was Bereket Russom of Harding House. He won the 400 m. Although he ran too fast at the start and it looked as if K. Vohra might beat him in the end, Vohra's effort was just a little too late. In the 100 and 200 m Russom beat Vohra convincingly. S. Salvi won the high jump. He was a shadow of his former self being a Victor Ludorum winner several times before. Ill health had put him back.

In the Long Jump, Aujla jumped to the first place without much challenge.

The Division 2 boys usually have the best timings. In the 100 m Deboo with a timing of 12.8 sec. became the fastest boy in School but not before beating Devasthale, who however had sweet revenge beating Deboo in the 200 m due to more grit and determination.

P. Joshi won the 800 m beating Young. Joshi had a better last 100 m sprint. He also won the 1500 m. In the 400 m, showing better tactics he won in 61.3. The favourite, J. Young, just beat Deboo for the 3rd place. This race was the best of all the races, with the crowd on its toes.

Rohamare proved to be the dark horse winning the High Jump with a leap of 4' 10", beating the more fancied Bilampelly to 2nd place.

In the triple jump, Doshi, in spite of his size, leapt to a distance of 34' 7" winning it with Young getting the second place. Young won the long jump (16' 6") with the second boy at least a foot behind. The Winner of the Victor Ludorum was P. Joshi.

In Div. I, some events were decided before others as the number of boys was less. In 100 m Mullan won as expected with Nimbalkar getting the 2nd place. In the 200 m, Nimbalkar ran a very good race beating Merchant who unfortunately pulled a muscle at the fag end.

In 400, 800 and 1500 metres, Naik had no peer, winning all events comfortably. He trailed behind in the beginning but spurred ahead towards the end to win. In the High Jump

the first 3 boys jumped 4' 9" but Jhutti emerged victor due to better consistency. Merchan won the long jump with Naik coming second.

The triple Jump was won by Jhutti, and N. Vazir with more weight behind him threw the shot the farthest.

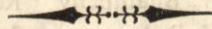
The Relay race was won by Mansfield House helped by Naik's fantastic 400 m in which he beat P. Joshi, who was the Victor Ludorum winner of Division 2. Although Joshi got about 30 m lead, Naik overtook him and gave his team a 20 m lead.

The Medley relay was won by the powerful Mansfield House who had 3 of the 5 best athletes.

In the end we thank the Commanding Officer of the A. S. P. T., Col. Darshan Singh, for allowing us to participate on the cinder track, which is among the best in India, and the Commanding Officer of 14 Guards for allowing us to have the band.

We hope to participate next year in the Inter-School Athletics.

— P. Joshi, 10 C



INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS 1979

DIVISION V

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	Time/Dist
50 metres	R. Khanna	S. Mukherjee	R. Sable	8".4
80 metres	S. Mukherjee	S. Rizwe	R. Khanna	12".8
200 metres	R. Khanna	S. Mukherjee	R. Sable	33".7
Long Distance	E. Wood	J. Benjamin	S. Desai	10'-11" New Record
Victor Ludorum	{ R. Khanna S. Mukherjee			

DIVISION IV

100 metres	S. Baljit Singh	S. Sant Singh	L. Rodrigues	14".0 equals Record
200 metres	S. Baljit Singh	S. Sant Singh	D. Sadhwani	28".6 New Record
400 metres	S. Baljit Singh	R. Wood	A. Deshmukh	68".4 New Record
Long Dist.	R. Wood	S. Deshmukh	A. Doshi	9'-52".4
Long Jump	S. Baljit Singh	L. Rodrigues	I. Pithawalla	13'-7
4x100m Relay	Mansfield	Bishop's	Arnould	1'-2"
Victor Ludorum	Sher Baljit Singh			

DIVISION III

100 metres	B Russom	K. Vohra	G. Manuel	13".3
200 metres	B Russom	K. Vohra	N. Mirchandani	28".0
400 metres	B. Russom	K. Vohra	R. Mehta	63".9
High Jump	S. Salvi	K. Vohra	R. Mehta	4'.3"
Long Jump	M. Aujla	S. Salvi	R. Mehta	14'.7"
Long Dist.	B. Russom	K. Delvis	M. Marley	9'-39.4
100x200x200x100	Bishop's	Mansfield	Harding	127".8
Relay				
Victor Ludorum	B. Russom			

DIVISION II

100 metres	V. Deboo	S. Dewasthale	R. Thakrar	12".8
200 metres	S. Dewasthale	V. Deboo	R. Thakrar	26".5
400 metres	P. Joshi	J. Young	V. Deboo	61".3
800 metres	P. Joshi	M. Mubarakai	A. Panjwani	2'-24".3
1500 metres	P. Joshi	M. Mubarakai &	R. Sydney	5'-11.1
High Jump	C. Rohamare	V. Bilampelly	R. Thakrar	4'-10"
Long Jump	J Young	C. Rohamare	S. Bagga	16'-6"
Triple Jump	M. Doshi	J. Young	P. Joshi	34'-7"
Putting	C. Rohamare	J. Young	G. Dhumal	26'-5"
Long Dist.	P. Joshi	J. Mathews	M. Mubarakai	19'-7.5"
Victor Ludorum	P. Joshi			

DIVISION I

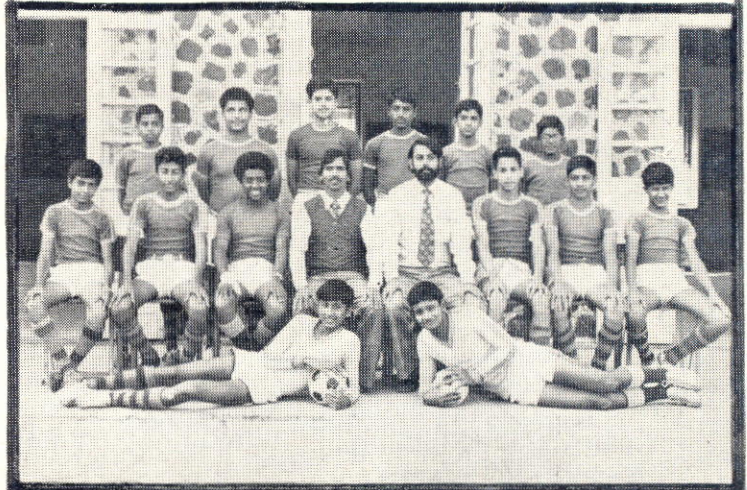
100 metres	M. Mullan	M. Nimbalkar	S. Doshi	12'.9"
200 metres	M. Nimbalkar	M. Merchant	S. Doshi	26'.9
400 metres	G. Naik	C. Dupratt	M. Merchant	60.3
800 metres	G. Naik	M. Mullan	C. Dupratt	2'-28".4
1500 metres	G. Naik	M. Nimbalkar	C. Dupratt	5'-12".4
High Jump	J. Jhutti	M. Nimbalkar	C. Dupratt	4'-9"
Long Jump	M. Merchant	G. Naik	S. Doshi	16'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Triple Jump	J. Jhutti	S. Doshi	M. Mullan	33'-7
Putting	N. Wazir	J. Jhutti	M. Mullan	31'-6"
200x400x400x200m				
Relay	Mansfield	Harding	Arnould	2'-58".8
50x50x3x100m	Mansfield	Bishop's	Arnould	56".0
Relay				
Tug O' War	Arnould	Bishop's	Mansfield	
Long Distance	M. Mullan	M. Nimbalkar	E. Sudarshan	20'-41".5
Victor Ludorum	G. Naik			

FOOTBALL,



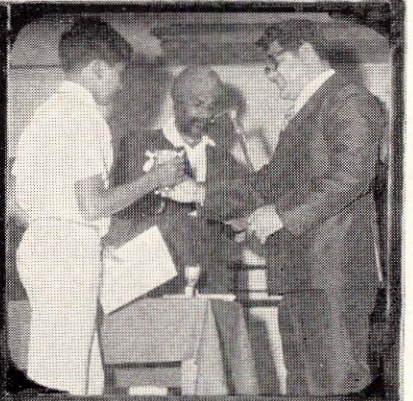
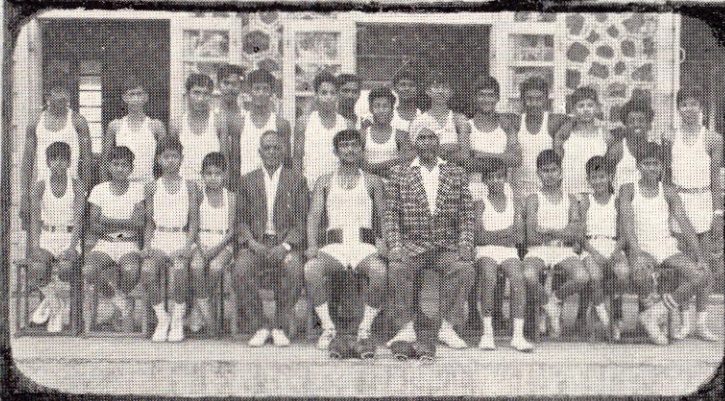
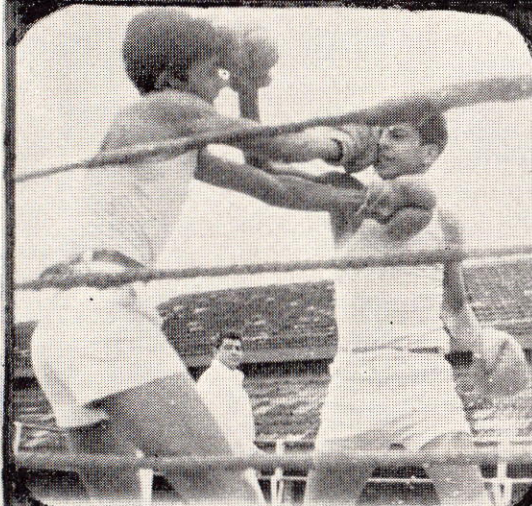
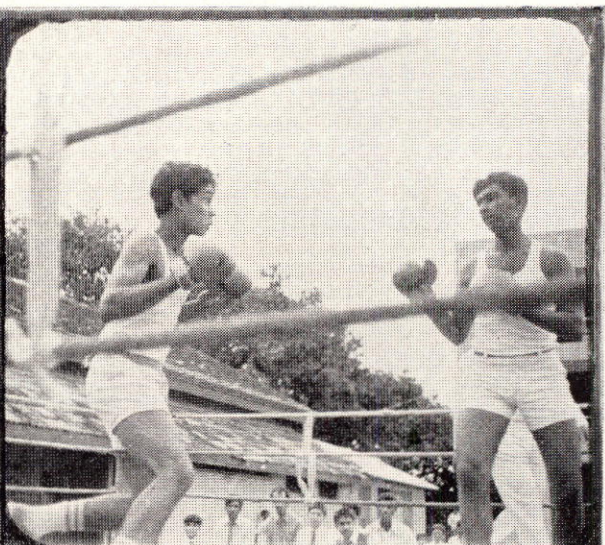
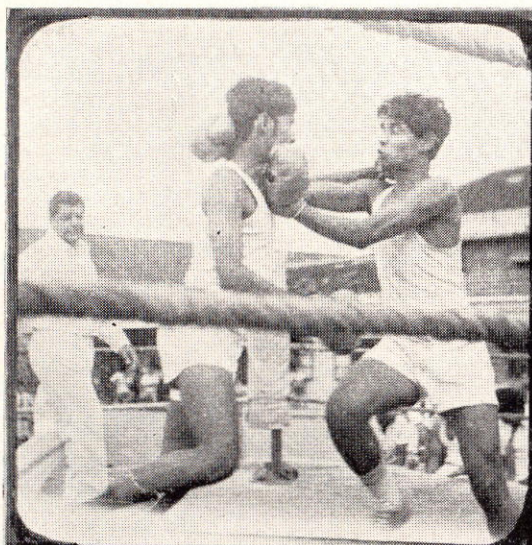
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JUNIORS



SENIORS





BOXING

BOXING 1979

This year the Boxing Season was very short, and therefore there wasn't much time for practice; none the less the boxers put up a good show—guts, determination and good punches were in evidence. Kudos to Mr. Bajwa for keeping boxing alive in the school.

In the first bout, E. Sequeira got in a few more wild punches than his opponent V. T. Menon and was declared the winner.

Junior Midget Weight Shakeel Momin, by virtue of being more aggressive, scored a points victory over J. Poonawalla.

K. Bhutekar with a peculiar style made up for his height disadvantage to defeat Tipnis Menon by the narrowest of margins. Last year the same two faced each other and Menon was the winner on that occasion. Menon had the consolation of being declared the best loser among the Juniors.

A. Polan fought well from the word go, and easily out-boxed his opponent A. Shinde. It must be said to the credit of the latter that he battled pluckily on till the end.

R. Deshmukh did the best he could, but it was not good enough against S. Salvi's superior ring-craft.

I. Yusufali fought well enough, not to win, but to enable Roger Sydney, his opponent, to be adjudged the best boxer in the Junior section.

K. Bhamvra beat F. Dholoo on points. The winner came close to being disqualified for pushing. It was a close fight.

B. Russom has a good punch, but soon found himself with a problem he couldn't solve—Mullan's outstretched arm which didn't allow him to get close enough to make his punching effective and so Mullan won the bout.

The Panjwani—Deshmukh encounter had what the crowd liked : plenty of action and stunning toe to toe punching. Even in the third round both boxers kept up the tempo. Panjwani was declared the winner.

The Pillai—Mehta bout was also action-packed and displayed, in addition, considerable skill. Pillai put up a very good resistance, but it was Mehta all the way. Both are promising boxers.

M. Doshi defeated S. Deokar on points. The latter had to be checked for slapping. It is a weakness he must learn to overcome.

S. Doshi fought very well against J. Young, the winner of the belt last year. Doshi showed that he had the ability to give and take punishment, but Young's superior skill proved the deciding factor.

The Dhumal—Thayil clash proved to be the best bout of the evening. The latter displayed considerable skill, but Dhumal was too tough an opponent for him. Up against solid punching, Thayil was forced, in the main, to show how good he was in the art of self-defence. In the end Dhumal was declared the best boxer among the Seniors and Thayil, the best loser.

N. Kunjir was no match for Robin Sydney and so the latter held himself in restraint and allowed his opponent to last the three rounds.

FINAL RESULTS OF THE OPEN BOXING 1979

Winner	Weights	Runner up
Sequeira E	Jr. Catch Wt.	Menon V. T.
Poonawalla J.	Jr. Midget Wt.	Momin, Shakeel
Bhutekar K.	Jr. Mosquito Wt.	Tipnis Menon A
Polan A	Jr. Lt. Fly Wt.	Shinde A.
Salvi S	Jr. Fly Wt.	Deshmukh R
Sydney, Roger	Jr. Bantam Wt.	Yusufali I
Bhamvra K	Sr. Pin Wt.	Dholoo F
Mullan M	Sr. Catch Wt.	Russom B
Panjwani A	Sr. Midget Wt.	Deshmukh B
Mehta R	Sr. Mosquito Wt.	Pillay M
Doshi M	Sr. Lt. Fly Wt.	Deokar S
Young J	Sr. Fly Wt.	Doshi S
Dhumal G	Sr. Bantam Wt.	Thayil I
Sydney, Robin	Sr Lt. Heavy Wt.	Kunjir N

Best Boxer Sr. : Dhumal G

Best Loser Sr. : Thayil I

Best Boxer Jr. : Sydney, Roger

Best Loser Jr. : Tipnis Menon A

Rookie of the Year : Bhutekar K

BADMINTON 1979

This year badminton was not as popular as last year when more than 50 boys entered for the Senior Singles; this year there were only 19!

Spectators, too, were few in number. We hope there will be an improvement in this respect in future.

Nevertheless, the finals were a good show. The Senior Singles champion was Sanjay Bagga who beat Prakash Joshi in three well-contested games 17-18, 15-11, 15-12. Bagga did the smashing while Joshi excelled in retrieving the shuttle.

In the doubles, P. Joshi and K. Delvis easily beat B. Chobhe and S. Bodas who just couldn't click as a team.

The Junior Singles' final was an interesting one. In the first game Sanjay Azad easily beat Chavan 15-5, but Chavan fought back to win the second game quite easily 6-15. The final game was a one-sided affair; Chavan had no answer to Azad's smash and went down 0-15.

This year we entered the Inter-School Badminton in the Junior section (we nearly did not enter as there were other school activities but with some persuasion were allowed to.) We were represented by Prakash Joshi, Chetan Shetty, Sanjay Azad and Kesavan Delvis. Our first match was against St. Joseph's and this and all the other matches were to be played on the Loyola's school court.

There were eleven teams in this tournament including us. For each match we played five games, three singles and two doubles. The team winning three games was declared the winner.

Against St. Joseph's Azad played in the first game, and he gave us a flying start, winning quite easily. However in the next game we lost, with C. Shetty and K. Delvis unable to combine. We lost the third game also and the score was 2-1 against us. However we were quite confident of winning the next two games and we did, winning by 3 games to 2.

Our next opponents were S. D. Kataria, whose players just weren't up to the standard and lost in straight games 3-0.

In the semi-final we met St. Vincent's (who have become our rivals for quite some time; we had met three times, twice in football and once in G. K., and we were losing 1-2) and were determined to even up scores. We were not given much of a chance against St. Vincent's but we really stole a march on them !

In the first game Azad was better than his opponent and won without difficulty. In the second game, C. Shetty and K. Delvis, after dropping the first set, never looked back and folded up the match with ease. They won 10-15, 15-2, and 15-6.

We needed a win in the third game to win by straight games. P. Joshi played a neat game with some nice retrieves and deft placements and won 15-0, 15-11.

We had thus entered the finals--when we had been considered too weak even to enter for the tournament !

The other finalists were Loyola's School and we were expected to get licked by them. Azad as usual played the first game and, though he showed good retrieving and placing, he could not find any answers to his opponent's drop shots, some of which would just skim the net. So, in spite of trying his best, he lost 8-15, 11-15

In the doubles, C Shetty and K Delvis again couldn't combine, and lost the first set at 11-15. In the second game they combined better and, with some really good play by Shetty, they scraped through to win 17-14. However, in the third set they couldn't keep it up and lost 11-15. Shetty played a magnificent game, but with a nervous partner he just couldn't win.

The score was 2-0, and the third game began with P. Joshi playing against Pune's Sub-Junior (under 15) Semi-finalist, Bipin Deo. Joshi in the first set scored a surprise win 15-11 over Deo who played a bit too easy. Joshi lost the second set at 4-15. Deo has a very hard smash, around the head, and took full advantage of Joshi's weak backhand and won the third set, and the match, 15-8

So we were the runners-up this year, losing the finals in three hard-fought games.

A word of thanks to Mr. Thakore, who has kept badminton alive as a sport in Bishop's.

P. Joshi 10 C

TABLE TENNIS

Master In/Charge : Mr. K. S. Aitkins

Table Tennis is a game which is far from being ignored in Bishop's. Rather, every boy is given a chance to prove himself in the open Table Tennis Championship (Juniors and Seniors). On the 18th of June 1979 participants were told to give in their names to Samtani by the mid-morning break. By the end of the break 18 names were already in and by the end of the day the number had doubled. The total tally for Seniors was 36 and the Juniors 30. From that day onwards innumerable boys waited for their turn in the preliminary rounds. The tournament began on the 25th of June with the Junior singles and doubles. The next day brought the start of the Senior singles and doubles. Every day some of the participants were 'knocked out' by their opponents.

The Finals were held on the 6th of July. There were many boys who watched the matches on that day.

The Junior singles was played first and the boy who emerged winner was Sher Baljit Singh who beat S. Deshmukh after a very tense match. The Junior singles was followed by the Junior doubles. Here again there was a close fight between S. Deshmukh and R. Deshmukh on one side and K. Chothia and M. Momin on the other. The former won in straight games, but not before they had their anxious moments. After the Junior events there was a lot of excitement as it was now the turn of the seniors to start playing.

The Senior tournament started with the singles where S. Samtani and A. Chavan were poised to meet each other. Samtani started well, but Chavan fought hard and rallied to beat Samtani in successive games.

In the Senior doubles Samtani partnered Deshmukh B and played against Bhojwani R and Kapoor S. The former won without any resistance from their opponents who seemed to make little effort. Thus ended the open Senior and Junior Table Tennis Championship for 1979. The final placings were as follows :

Junior Singles - Winner : Sher Baljit Singh

Runner Up : S. Deshmukh

Junior Doubles-Winners : Deshmukh S and Deshmukh R.

Runners Up : Chotia K and Momin M.

Senior Doubles Winners : Samtani S and Deshmukh B.

Runners Up : Bhojwani R and Kapoor S.

Senior Singles - Winner : A. Chawan

Runner Up : S. Samtani

The open table Tennis Championships were followed by the Inter House Table Tennis Tournament played on the 16th of July. This lasted for a very short period and Arnould House secured first place. They had a strong team. They were followed by Bishop's, and Mansfield occupied the third place.

Soon after the Inter-House tournament the winners of the open Championships were presented with their certificates and trophies. This presentation was on the 24th July.

Nearly a fortnight later our school entered the Inter-School open Table Tennis Championships and the boys who had the honour of representing the school were Samtani S, Chavan A, and Mehta R.

Mehta R and Chavan A entered the Junior section while Samtani played in the Senior section. The Juniors had to play earlier than Samtani since there was a difference in timings. Mehta R lost his first round to Ajwani from Loyola's, the latter being more experienced. Chavan A had better luck and won his first round easily. The same afternoon Samtani beat his opponent from M. E. S. without any difficulty. The next morning Chavan was once again victorious when he beat his opponent by a big margin. He was told to play his third round the same day. Here fortune went against him and he lost, but not before he had given his opponent something to think about. Samtani played a few hours later against Malani of Loyola's losing his first game but then winning the other two.

Samtani played his last round the following day when he was beaten easily by Siddhay from St. Vincent's.

With that concluded all the events of Table Tennis for 1979.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Aitkins for guiding us all the way through and keeping up our spirits.

S. Samtani 9 C

BISHOP'S V ST VINCENT'S FOOTBALL SENIORS

The day had come ! A do-or-die effort was needed from Bishop's, as a draw or loss in this vital match would knock us out of the reckoning. But Bishop's responded very well, backed up by an enthusiastic following in the stands, St. Vincent's, over-confident, was brought to earth with a shock by a beautiful goal by J. Young, midway through the first half. Stung, Vincent's rallied and scored off a corner a few minutes later. At lemon-time, the score was 1-1. In the second half, the Vincent's boys virtually camped in our half, but brilliant goal-keeping by A. Panjwani and good tackles and clearances by our backs, kept them at bay. Off a stray clearance J. Young weaved his way into the penalty area and shot our second goal. The Bishop's stands erupted in joy. We held them back for dear life till the final whistle, and then it was all over ! Our boys ran onto the field and we were congratulated. A royal battle had been won by us !

V. Deboo 10 A

INTER-HOUSE FOOTBALL-1979

Inter-House Tournaments always draw a large crowd and great enthusiasm, as in them competitive spirit is very great, and boys turn up in large numbers to cheer their Houses.

The tournament got off to a late start, but in fine weather, unlike the week before, when it had rained continually. On the first day, Arnould played Harding, and Bishop's played Mansfield. Very unexpectedly, Arnould swamped Harding in all three matches, and, equally unexpectedly, Bishop's overran Mansfield in all three matches, getting the tournament off to an upset but exciting start.

The second day saw stiffer competition, as Mansfield rallied to hold Arnould to two draws while losing to the latter only in the Seniors. Bishop's and Harding also held out to two draws, while Bishop's won in the Sub-Junior category. Thus, at the end of the second day, Arnould and Bishop's were first, with Harding and Mansfield tied far behind.

The third day drew the largest crowd and the keenest play, as Arnould and Bishop's played for the first two places and Harding and Mansfield played for the other two places. Arnould held Bishop's to a draw in the Sub-Juniors, while Bishop's held Arnould to a stiff draw in the Seniors. Two quick goals by Arnould saw them defeating Bishop's in the Juniors, thereby winning the competition narrowly. Harding defeated Mansfield in the Juniors and Seniors, while Mansfield turned the tables in the Sub-juniors. This saw Arnould first, Bishop's second, Harding third, and Mansfield fourth.

POSITIONS

Sub-Juniors	Juniors	Seniors
Bishop's - 7	Arnould - 7	Arnould - 7
Arnould - 5	Bishop's - 5	Bishop's - 5
Mansfield - 3	Harding - 3	Harding - 3
Harding - 1	Mansfield - 1	Mansfield - 1

OVERALL STANDING

1st :	Arnould	- 19 points
2nd :	Bishop's	- 17 points
3rd :	Harding	- 7 points
4th :	Mansfield	- 5 points

V. Deboo XA,

JUNIOR XI FOOTBALL

1979 was a big year for the Junior football enthusiasts because we entered The Poona Inter-School tournament.

Mr. Jagtap, the Master-in charge asked the boarders "Who wants to join the team?" The answer he got was "Me Sir, Me Sir,". The next day it was announced during assembly, and some dayscholars' names were added.

The following day the race course was filled with boys hopeful of getting into the team. Since there was more than the number required, the unfortunate ones who did not qualify were told to try harder next time. We had to slog it out during practice time as we had only a few days of practice.

The final boys chosen were B. Russom, R. Mehta, P. Mehta, R. Joshi, V. Joshi, S. Alexander, K. Delvis, A. Chavan, I. Yusufali, S. Jadhav, Vasant Kumar, N. Al-Najjar, N. Laud, S. Kothari, G. Manuel, R. Thakur and A. Dodani. Our first match of the tournament was against Anglo-Urdu school on St. Vincent's ground. The whole board- ing section was allowed to come and see the match. When the game started it was easy

to see that we were the better trained and superior team. We won the match easily at 16-0. The following day we played against St. John's. Their team proved to be better than Anglo-Urdu school; but we still beat them 10-0.

Our next match was against St. Vincent's school. In this match, our Captain, B. Russom, was the man of the match. He played extraordinarily well, and we too combined well, but in vain. They proved superior and beat us by a narrow margin. I've forgotten what the score was.

The next match was against Ornella's and this was the last match in the league. In this match we put up our best show because if we hadn't we wouldn't have been in the quarter finals. We entered the quarter finals by beating them.

The day to play the Loyola school arrived and during this match Russom, being the back-bone of the team, showed some real "Pele" style playing. S. Alexander our goalie brought off some spectacular saves. This did not go in vain. We won the hard-fought match 3-2. We were now in the semi-finals.

The semi-finals proved to be our Waterloo. In spite of our best efforts we went down 0-6 to National Model school. We had the consolation of hearing later that National Model School won the finals by the same margin.

Over all, the team deserved the congratulations they received for putting up an excellent performance and displaying a sporting spirit. Our special thanks to Mr. Jagtap and Mr. Innis, through whose guidance we achieved this honour. Thank you sirs.

S. Vasant Kumar 9C

HOCKEY ROUND UP

The Hockey season began with a bang in mid-January. However this burst of enthusiasm lasted only for a short while i.e. about three or four practices. This was due to the many activities being conducted simultaneously, all scheduled for the zero term. Hence clashes were inevitable. House captains and Seniors were kept busy selecting and training their house teams for Long Distance runs and the Athletic meet. This naturally resulted in poor attendance for hockey which accounts for the dis-organised state of the team, poor co-ordination and lack of evidence of any of the finer points of the game.

The highlight of the season, the annual fixture against St. Peter's, drew nigh-much to the distress of the coach. However the team, selected more by the individual's previous year's performance than this year's practice, was ringing with confidence and with one voice proclaimed "We'll win Sir"!

Tension mounted as the boys geared themselves for the match. At 5-00 p. m. sharp, on neutral ground with A. S. P. T. referees, the whistle blew for the bully off. This was it. The match had begun. Within five minutes of play it was easy to see that St. Peter's was the better trained and much superior team. And any person with hockey sense would predict that our opponents would emerge the victors and that it was only a matter of time. However time ran out on St. Peter's and it was Bishop's that turned up trumps. We won 2-1. Even with the constant pressure on our defence, forages into the opponents'

25 yard line were capitalized on by our ever eager and tireless forwards. Fifteen minutes into the game, our captain, Shekhar Doshi, receiving a pass at 25 yards, made a break through, dribbling past two defences and the goal-keeper to flick the ball neatly into the far corner of the goal. At the breather the score held at 1-0 in favour of Bishop's. I heard no sighs of relief. All were aware that the tables could easily be turned in a minute or two and there were 30 minutes to go.

In the second half, St. Peter's pressed harder but did not avail of the many opportunities presented to them. Within 10 minutes, P. Joshi, right winger, sprinted for a long pass, beat the left back to it and slammed in from the top of the "D". The ball deflected off the pads "Goal!" shouted the spectators. The cheers were deafening. The score 2-0. However, within 5 minutes of the second goal, St. Peter's retaliated with a vengeance. The movement which culminated in a goal was superbly executed. From midfield with accurate passing and sure collecting, the ball advanced into our danger area. A hard cross pass from their left wing brought the ball to the "D" where the centre forward collected and banged! He made no mistake. Our goalie was completely beaten. The score 2-1.

The last 12 minutes of the game were almost entirely in our half. The pressure was tremendous but our defence held them at bay. Such was their determination and perseverance that St. Peter's with all this still could not get the equaliser. Which just goes to show that skill alone is no criterion. If our boys couldn't match their skill we had what it takes; determination, endurance, the will to fight, the will to win, call it what you may, our boys have it.

Mr. D. Innis

CRICKET 1979

Cricket in 1979 was given more importance than in the last few years. This was so, because 1979 was a 14 month academic year.

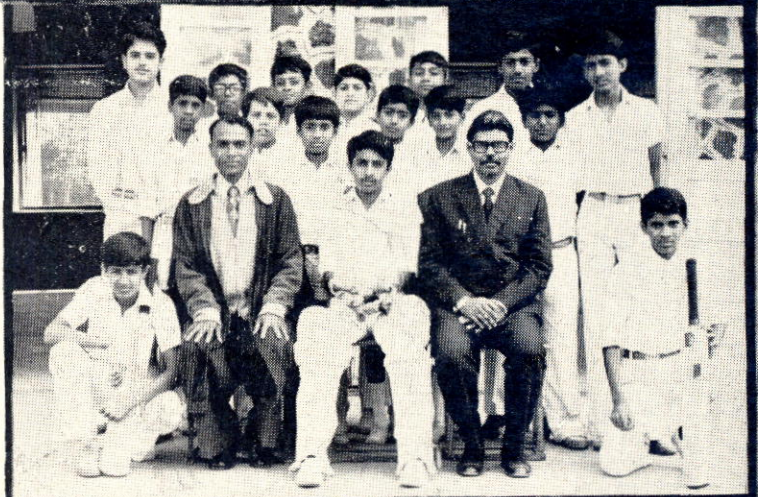
On 13th September 1979, the boys interested in joining the Senior XI were told to give their names in to S. Samtani. About 25 names were given in and all boys did their level best during the practice sessions to get themselves into the team. Only 13 boys were chosen to represent the school. We played many matches, the first being played against Petit's, the inter-school champions for the past few years. All matches consisted of one innings.

Our match against Petit's was played on Sunday 20th Oct. We lost the toss and our opponents chose to bat. In the second over of the day Samtani broke through and had their opener caught in the slips. Chitale was brought on from the other end and in the very first ball of his over he got the wicket of the other opener, that being his only victim. Thus within the first six overs we had their openers removed. Their next two batsmen tried to resist and their captain nearly succeeded in his attempt, but was caught splendidly by Datt J. off the bowling of Samtani. Samtani got one more wicket to his credit when he removed the next batsman in his next over. Doshi was brought on once more after his opening spell and succeeded in trapping their vice-captain L. B. W. The

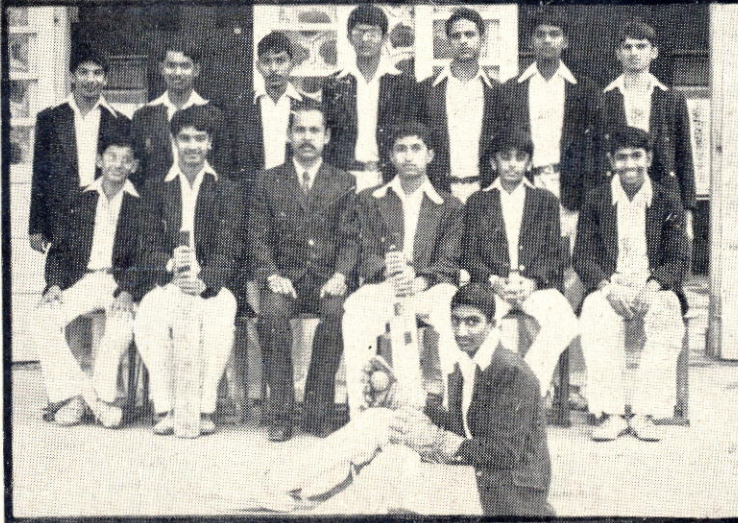


CRICKET

SUB-JUNIORS



JUNIORS



SENIORS

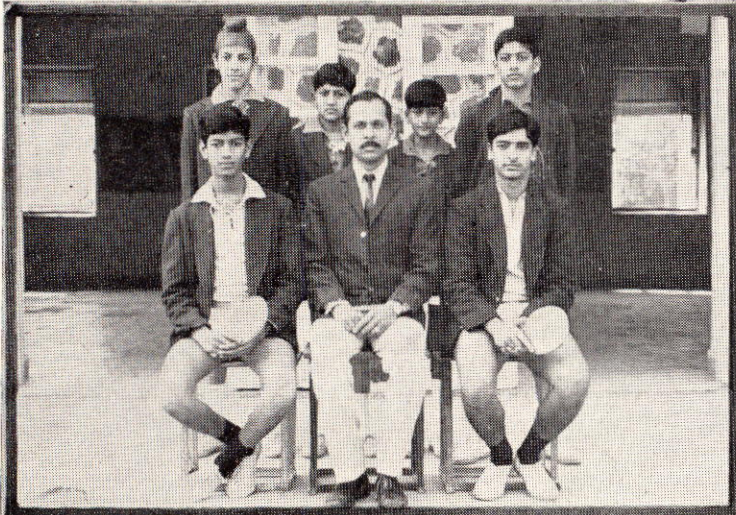
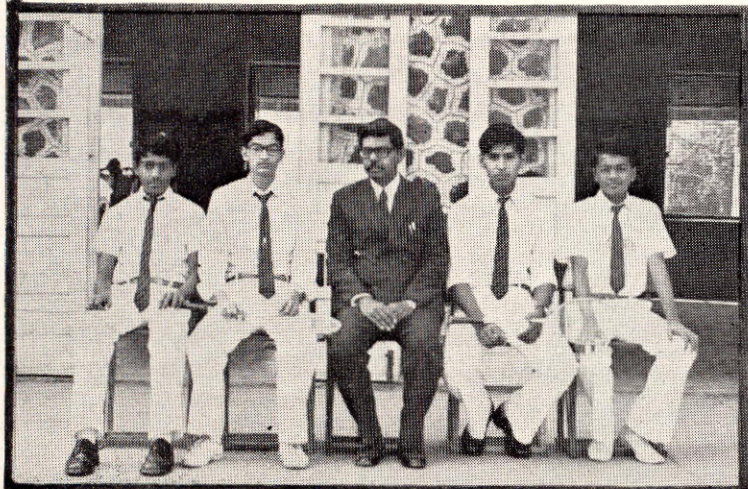


TABLE TENNIS

BASKET BALL



BADMINTON

next two batsmen at the crease stuck on like leeches and helped their school to reach a respectable total.

Suddenly, within a short period of time both these batsmen were run out and our players heaved a sigh of relief. Their partnership was worth 30 runs. After their departure their last four batsmen crumbled as, with the exception of one who scored 2, the rest were out without scoring. Two of them were victims to Samtani and one to our captain, Shetty M. They were all out for 75, the main destroyer being Samtani who took five wickets. Doshi S, Shetty M and Chitale captured a wicket each.

Momin Saad and Rohamare C, our opening batsmen gave us a good start and laid the foundations for victory as their partnership realised 30 runs. Momin Saad, who hit 4 fours including one being hit off the first ball of the innings, contributed 24 out of the 30. They were both dismissed at 30, Rohamare making 6 and Momin S. 24. Their dismissals were caused by the former getting run out and the latter being caught at slips. Divgi H and Venkataramiah R were the next two batsmen at the crease after the openers had departed and with the help of byes they enabled us to get near our target. They made 8 and 7 respectively. We lost another quick wicket, the victim being our captain Shetty who scored 3. After he left we needed only 14 runs to win and this job was accomplished by Doshi M who remained unbeaten at 8, made up of two fours, and Samtani S who remained unbeaten at 6. Thus we passed Petit's score with 5 wickets remaining in hand. We had made 76 for 5 and were victorious in our first match.

Our 2nd match was played against Cantonment Sports Club. Shetty M won the toss and elected to bat. We had to start a bit late due to the rain. Momin and Rohamare opened and gave us a good start once more. Momin again started off his innings with a 4. Totally in his innings of 26 he hit three 4's and one 'five' as a result of an over-throw. After Momin had departed Rohamare followed him, having contributed 9 to the total. This first wicket partnership realised 33 runs. Doshi M and Venkataramiah were next at the Crease. The former lasted only for two balls scoring a "duck". Doshi's exit brought in Samtani. At this stage we were 55 for 3. Venkataramiah and Samtani took the score from 55 to 99. Venkataramiah who was executing some fine strokes was suddenly caught off the bowling of Satpute who was the Vice captain of the opposite side. Samtani added one more to the total which helped us reach 100 for 4.

Then disaster struck. Divgi H who was Samtani's partner at the crease was rapped on the pad and declared out. He did not get the opportunity to get off the mark. In the very next ball we lost our captain Shetty, who was 'clean bowled' without scoring. We were now 100 for 6. The new batsman in was Datt J. Samtani and Datt carried the team to safety and at lunch we were 140 for 6. S Samtani remained un-beaten with 61 and Datt remained un-beaten at 10.

After lunch Samtani started scoring very fast and moved on to 81. He hit 11 fours in his 81 and it was when he tried to hit one more that he was out, caught and bowled by their captain, Kulkarni. Samtani and Datt had added 50 runs for the 7th wicket. After Samtani's departure the end came very fast as the last three batsmen were dismissed for '0'. Datt remained unbeaten with a patient 22. Our wickets were shared by their captain, Kulkarni, and his deputy, Satpute. They took 5 wickets each.

Their opening batsmen started very shakily and exposed their weakness to our bowlers. S Doshi who was bowling splendidly struck the first blow. Samtani followed him

and captured his first wicket. Their wickets fell very fast, all the victims being 'dazed' by S. Doshi's superb bowling. When 5 wickets had fallen their captain Kulkarni and vice-captain Satpute stayed on for a long time and frustrated our bowlers. They did not intend scoring nor did they intend getting out. They were only aiming for a draw. There was a change in the bowling and Divgi was brought on. With his wonderfully flighted deliveries he claimed Satpute. Kulkarni was disturbed by this and soon departed, falling prey to Samtani's bowling. After the departure of those two batsmen the rest of the team collapsed like nine-pins. Thus they were skittled out for a mere 57 runs in reply to our massive total of 184. Their wickets were shared by Doshi (4) Samtani (5) and Divgi who got the vital wicket of their captain. We had beaten our opponents by 127 runs.

Our next match was played against the young 'old boys' of the school. Shetty lost the toss but we were put in to bat. Once again S. Momin and Rohamare gave us a good start and our first wicket fell at 25. This was the wicket of Momin who for the first time did not get to double figures. He was soon followed by Rohamare after only one more run had been scored. Both these batsmen fell victims to Saboowala who bowled them with his lovely spin bowling. Our captain, Shetty, promoted himself in the batting order, but was once again unfortunate as he was clean bowled by Raymond after scoring 1. Venkataramiah, the next one to go, also fell to Saboowala. He departed after scoring 6. Samtani joined Doshi M. The latter was soon caught off the bowling of Raymond and at this stage we were 36 for 5. Divgi was out two runs later and our score was now just 37 for 6. Datt J joined Samtani and they carried the score from 37 to 80. This was when Samtani was splendidly caught off the bowling of Saboowala. He departed after scoring 41. The next man in was Doshi S and our run rate accelerated due to the three consecutive 4's that he hit off Raymond's bowling. Time ran out and we had to close our innings at 117 for 8. Saboowala finished with 5 wickets and Raymond bagged 2.

They needed 118 runs in 90 minutes to win the match. Raymond and Ramaswami opened their innings and made their intentions clear right from the word 'go'. Their first wicket partnership realised 45 runs before Ramaswami was bowled by Divgi's skilful bowling. Saboowala soon followed him after the addition of 8 runs. He was bowled by a 'beauty' from Doshi S. A few minutes later, the "run-getting machine" Raymond was caught by Doshi who took a spectacular left-handed catch diving full length on the ground. With the help of Meher-Homji 23, Wagle 18 and Malelu 9, they managed to beat us with just 5 balls remaining. Though we had lost the match, we were still in high spirits as we certainly did put up a good show.

Two days later we played our last match, against Hutchings. We elected to bat after winning the toss. Our players were instructed to bat very carefully as the ground was very uneven. As usual Momin and Rohamare gave us a pleasant start. All was going well when suddenly Rohamare was struck by a bouncer. He had to retire after scoring 4 and was in no condition to continue playing. Venkataramiah was the next man in but at the other end we lost Momin's wicket, who had scored 17. Hutchings' captain Pillay had struck his first blow and in the very next ball he sent M. Doshi's stump flying. Samtani came in at Doshi's exit and with the help of Venkataramiah he carried the team to safety. Venkataramiah too was sent back by Pillay, after scoring 10. Datt joined Samtani and was playing confidently when his thumb got smashed. He was not able to take any further part in the game. Divgi partnered Samtani next but soon fell prey to the vicious bowling of Pillay.

Our captain Shetty came in after that but returned without scoring. Next to come in was Doshi S. whose partnership with Samtani did not last long as the latter was bowled by Pillay. Soon Doshi's wicket fell and we were all out for 96. Eight wickets had fallen, all bagged by Pillay.

Set to make 97 to win, their openers, Vikram and Iqbal, batted with great responsibility and their partnership realised 20 runs. This was when Samtani got his first breakthrough by bowling Iqbal. Sanjay joined Vikram and troubled our bowlers to a great extent. Spin was introduced through Divgi who bowled Vikram before the latter had time to get used to the change in bowling. At this stage they were 50 for 3. Then started the landslide; Samtani captured 3 more wickets from one end and Divgi 3 from the other. These 6 wickets were claimed at the cost of 7 runs and so our opponents who were 50 for 3 at one stage were skittled out for a meagre 57. Their last five batsmen contributed 'ducks' to the total. The great downfall was caused by Divgi's well-flighted spin bowling which completely demoralised their batsmen. We beat our opponents by 39 runs.

In all we had played 4 matches and won 3; this I think was a tremendous effort. I thank Mr. Aitkins for welding us into a fine team.

The team : Shetty M (Captain), Samtani S (V. Captain), Doshi S, Momin S. Rohamare C, Doshi M, Venkataramiah R, Datt J, Divgi H, Chitale, Deokar S, Memon and Pillay R.

OLD BOYS' CORNER

Vinod Nanwani- ISC 1974-passed the B. A. in Accountancy and Law from Kent University and stood first in Accountancy. He aims at becoming a Chartered Accountant.

Guha Thakurta- left Bishops's in Class VII. He is now studying in class X in West Africa. Address P. O. Box 340; Free Town, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

A. Verma-ISC 1974. He is now doing the IIT. course, Address IIT Hostel 6, Bombay.

Ramesh Pyati- ISC 1974. Address-Room No 375, 6th Block, MIT, Manipal, S. Kanara 576119.

Capt. Dipankar Ganguly- ISC 1966, is working in the Command Hospital, Pune.

Pratab Kane- ISC 1967. He taught in Bishop's from 1971-73. He is now a Chief Officer in the Merchant Navy.

Manoj Borcar- SSC 1965. He passed his MBBS through AFMC, Poona. Address Major Manoj Borcar, 72 Armd Regt., C/o. 56 APO

Jasbir Wahan- ISC 1972. He is a dental surgeon in Pimpri

Irshad Noor- SSC 1967. He is in the Transport business. Address-6 Khandka Building; Sant Sara Path 3, Byculla Bombay 27.

Prakash P. Ranadive- left Bishop's in 1958. Address "Laxmi Terrace", 73 Ranade Road, Dadar, Bombay 400028. Tel No 457632.

Capt. Ashok Chibbar- ISC 1969. He is doing a degree course in the CME. Address 45 EME, CME, Pune 31.

Capt. Rajan Pugnish- ISC 1967. He is doing a degree course in the CME. Address-43 S O. D. E. Course, EME, CME, Pune 31.

R. Tekawde – SSC 1967. He is doing his M. D. in Pune. Address-Shrirampur, Ahmadnagar Dist.

Malcolm Jackson–ISC 1967. He is a Standard Aqua–Lung Diver in the Gulf. He works for Grey Mackenzie as a Welder. Address P. O. Box 210 Marines, Bahrain.

Kanti R. Patel–SSC 1967. He studied in the BMC, College of Commerce. He went to the USA in 1971 and did his MBA at the University of Michigan. Address–2277 Lynnfield Road, Memphis, Tennessee 38138, USA.

Suprio Mukherjee– ICSE 1977. He is studying for the ISC (12) in Jamshedpur; He plans to do the B Com. He won the Junior College Athletics championship and was captain of the football XI.

Deepak Julka : ISC 1973 : took a degree and then started working for Tenacity Filters, Hadapsar. Address : 435/A Salisbury Park Road, Pune 411001.

Ashwini Mehta : }
Neeraj Bhalla } are in the A F M C Pune.
Kevin Singh }
A. Maria }

Amit Alok : left in 1973, did his “A” Levels in England and intended studying medicine; that was over a year ago Address–31 Langley Drive, Wanstead, London E11 2LN.

Sharad Balan : left–Class 7, 1971. He is a Motor Cycle Engineer. His hobbies are motor cycle racing and football. He has played football for ICL and Mahendra & Mahendra.

Michael Taylor : Passed Std IX and left Bishop’s in 1972. He did the ISC from St. Josephs Allahabad, securing 10 points–Division I. He was a school prefect. At present he is doing his Final Year at the YMCA Inst. of Engg., Faridabad, a Four year Post Diploma course in Electronics and Controls.

Dr Inderjit S. Chandhoke : 1962–1969. At present he is practising Dentistry in the U S A Address–40–40, 79th Street, B 510, Elmhurst, N. Y. 11373 (Tel 212) 446–4707. & 161–A The Mall, Meerut Cantt 250 001 U. P.

Glynn Stann : (1960–1968) is currently working as an Electrical Technician with the State owned Electrical Company in Perth, West Australia. He completed a diploma course in Electrical and then Electronic Engineering Address A 10 Habitat, 62 Gt. Est, Hyw. Rivervale 6103, W. Australia Tel–Perth 3613567 and “Medallion” 174, Matunga Rd, Wadala, Bombay 400 031.

Ian Stann–is a Graduate of the IIT, Kharagpur. He studied for M Sc in Nuclear Engineering–London University and is now working in Australia as an Engineer. Address–A 15 Habitat, C2 Great Eastern Hyw, Rivervale 6103, West Australia, Tel. 3613567.

Paramjit S Chandhoke–(1962–65) is doing his Ph. D. in Bio–Medical Engineering & is a graduate of IIT, Madras.

Dan R. Miharshahi–was a teacher in Bishop’s for a few years up to the end of 1969. He taught Literature to the ISC Class. After leaving Bishop’s he went to Port Moresby where he and his wife are teachers. At present he teaches Commerce & Social Science at

Kila High School, Port Moresby. Address : P O. Box 6061, Boroko (N. C. P.), Papua, New Guinea.

Shapoor H. Irani-SSC 1959-became a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales in 1965-was appointed Partner of the international accounting firm of Cooper and Lybrand in Tehran in 1974-returned to India in 1978 during the current Iranian revolution and took over as Deputy Chief Executive of Tata Sons Ltd. He is now back in Pune at 9 Castellino Road, Pune 1

Desmond Michael-ICSE He is now a member of the London Metropolitan police.

Prakash B. Patil-ICSE 1975. (Head Boy). He is studying in The Engineering College, for his B.E. Address Sri Siddhartha Institute of Technology, S S. I. T. J. C. Road, Tumkur, 572102.

K. C. Doraiswamy-ISC 1964 -B Sc. Hons. London, Ph. D Chem. USA. He is at present doing a degree in business preparatory to joining the largest chemical company in the world, viz Du Pont.

Khojeste Mistry-ISC 1964-was an Accountant in London until 1972, subsequently did a Master's Degree in Religion at Oxford. He is now an internationally known lecturer in Zoroastrian studies based in London.

Nelson Fernandes ICSE 1975- is doing aeronautical engineering in Bangalore. Address 298 100 Feet Rd, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560038.

Kiran Kadam- ICSE 1976.-did very well in the Class XII examination and secured about 93% in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for the Engineering Entrance examination. Address 83/2 Parvati Vrindhavan Society, " Chintamani ". Pune 9.

Arvind Natu- ICSE 1976 also did very well in the Class XII Exam securing over 90% in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for the Engineering Entrance examination. Address-305 Neelakash Apartments, Opp Kamala Nehru Park, Pune 4.

Azeem Sayyed- Senior Cambridge 1962. The last time we had the pleasure of seeing him, about a year ago, he was a Captain in the Maratha Light infantry. Address C/o 56 APO

Arvind Patel- SSC 1967; now has AAI, MIAS after his name. He is the Financial Director of the London Printing Press Address-7-11, The Broadway, Cricklewood, London NW2 3JX.

Rakesh Mehta- ISC 1974-Address, 3 Baharoba Road, Wanowrie, Pune 1.

Homi K. Mistry- ISC 1971-B. Sc. DEM and has taken an Entrepreneur Management course He is at present working for printing ink manufacturers. Address-712 Meher Naz 91, Cuffe Parade, Bombay 400005.

Mohan Sinha-ISC 1971, Works in Garware Nylons-Address D26 H. A. Colony Pimpri, Pune 18.

Bharat Bhagat- ISC 1974.- is in Textile engineering in Surat. Address- 111 EL-CID B9 Khar Marg, Malabar Hill, Bombay 400006.

Ashok Manik-ISC 1971- Passed B. Sc and entered business-Address 122 Jolly Marker Chamber II, Nariman Point, Bombay 21

Manomoy Ganguly : I. S. C. 1973.-stood first among the ISC Science students in Pune. He finished his Final M B B S in 1979 standing first in the A F M C, Pune, and

second in the whole of Pune University. He was awarded 3 Gold Medals, a Silver medal and a number of trophies and Prizes. In addition to his brilliant academic record, he represented the A F M C in the All India Debating Competitions and won a number of prizes. He took part in the Pune University Best Physique & Weight Lifting Competitions and won prizes in College Athletics.

Kumar Gera : S. C. 1961. He did the B. E. degree. He is now International President of the Jaycees.

Capt D. C. Katoch : (AOC) 1961-1967-SSC 1967 After Graduating from the Ness Wadia College of Commerce he joined the Army (Ordinance Corps). He is at present posted at C O D Agra

Capt R. C. Katoch : 1961-1972-Vice Head Boy 1972 has joined the Army (Armoured Corps (CIH)) and at present he is GSO3, HQ 4 Corps, C/o. 99 APO.

Sunil Dhaka : passed the ICSE in 1977, did class XI examination at St Mary's School, Meerut-joined the NDA in Jan. 1980 and is on his way to becoming a naval officer.

SPECTACLE OF THE CENTURY-THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

The solar eclipse took place on the 16th of February, 1980, between 2 20 pm & 4 52 pm & was total at about 3 41 pm. It was the first total one of the century to be visible in India.

I viewed the eclipse through a pair of fully developed negative film rolls, as it was said that viewing the eclipse directly or with its reflection in a bowl of water was harmful to the eyes & could blind a person for life. Many people being ignorant of this fact lost their eyesight as a result of viewing it in this manner. I saw some people using pin-hole cameras, but did not bother to make one for myself. I noticed that the planets Venus & Mercury were clearly visible in the star-studded sky, & birds were noticeably noisy & seemed to be heading towards their nests during the solar eclipse.

The Mahabaleshwar Temple of Gokarna, the Sun Temple of Konarak & the Jagannath Temple of Puri were along the path of totality of the eclipse. Many, in fact over 1,000, foreign astronomers visited India to study the eclipse & its results. eg--Herman Jacobi, a German scientist used the occurrence of the eclipse to determine the age of the epic, Ramayana. Swiss, Japanese, Australian & American scientists conducted experiments in Karwar with solar cells to see if there would be any change in the quantity of the energy produced by them. Several students of the John Hopkins University & the Gettysburg College from the United States of America studied the ground for "shadow bands", a phenomenon that occurs only during a total solar eclipse. Several minutes before & after a total solar eclipse, patterns of light & darkness flow across the ground. These are known as shadow bands.

Mental patients, though closely watched during the eclipse, visibly had no change in behaviour

Animals were sent from the Hyderabad zoo to the Osmania University to be studied for any change of behaviour during the eclipse. It was reported that animals became quite restless during the eclipse & kept pacing up & down in their cages.

The scientists of several countries including India have stated that the two total solar eclipses visible in India in this century after this one will be in 1995 & 1999, though only after 360 years ie 2340 will an eclipse have the same path of totality as it had on the 16th of February, 1980.

FOUNDERS' WEEK

A tradition—no doubt ! It is the magic week which attracts all associates of the school, especially the old boys who just cannot resist it. It is indeed a week of mixed feelings. All the 10th standard boys are reminded that their time has come : the time to prepare themselves for the I. C. S. E. exams, and that it will not be long before they will be separated from their Alma Mater. To them all the familiar scenes hold a reminder of the past—the times when they first entered this school. For the 9th standard there is the feeling that the next year will see them as leaders of the school, while the younger boys can think only of all the fun they are going to have during the week. Has anyone wondered what the staff feels ?

This year too, the occasion was full of these mixed feelings, but with a difference; a marked difference. It was the International Year of the Child, and The Bishop's School was up to something really special. We had a project this year. We were helping the children of Panch Howdh, those poor children who had found a home in the generous institution of the Convent of St. Mary. They too would partake in our happiness this year and benefit from our celebrations; a unique chapter, perhaps in the history of our school and one always to remain in it.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE Wednesday, the 7th November 1979 Time : 9.30

It was a wonderful day. The sun was bright. Leaves lay scattered on the road and everything was smartly dressed for the occasion. I had never seen the Church look more beautiful. The floral decorations carried out by a working party of boarders were marvellous. Fruit and flowers adorned the area round the altar, while the candelabra glistened in the sunlight diffusing through the picturesque stained glass windows. The fruit, I was told, was to go to the Panch Howdh children.

As everybody arranged themselves in their places, ripples of murmuring broke through the pious calm of the church. The choir boys had arrived earlier and Mr. Aitkins was already seated in front of the organ. Soon he struck the organ keys, producing a most enthralling effect over all. Immediately the solemnness of the occasion became apparent to everyone in the building.

The headboy, Nimbalkar, and the House Captains exchanged nervous grins; this was a big moment for them all. They slowly marched forward, to the accompaniment of the sonorous organ music, bringing forward the school and the House colours to be blessed. This was followed alternately by Bible reading and the singing of hymns. The choir boys, though half nervous, put up a brave front and on the whole performed so well that many people to their surprise found themselves commending them !

There was, of course, an address dealing generally with character formation. Mr. Roberts kindly pointed out the wrong paths to which we, the younger generation, are susceptible and warned us against taking them. What effect all this has on the boys one does not know but I did hear from two or three boys who listened only intermittently that the phrases thus caught were interesting.

The ceremony ended with the withdrawal of the Head boy and House Captains with their respective School and House colours, again accompanied by music. Suddenly there was a burst of chattering which became incessant and a smile appeared on everyone's lips as they left the Church. Soon everyone disappeared to where duty dragged them while a working party was left to clear up. I was left dreaming about all the services I had attended during my school life. However one other fact did manage to surface in my brain and that was about the P. A. system : it was perfect and allowed everything to be heard.

HANDWORK AND SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Time : 11 a. m. & 7 p. m.

Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, other relatives, friends and above all, the students from other schools, like St. Mary's, rushed hither and thither, eager not to miss seeing a single exhibit. The school was simply overflowing with visitors! And when one adds to this the number of boys helping out in school and demonstrating the usefulness of their exhibits or their characteristics, one really begins to get a true perspective of the sheer numbers of the people involved in our exhibition.

The science room was one big mass of gadgets and art. Some of the sketches, beadwork and other such diverse modes of exhibition clearly showed that talent was certainly not lacking in our boys. The gadgets and experiments proving various laws were delightful. There was one complex bit of battery-operated machinery, assembled around some photo electric cells, which acted as a burglar alarm. If I were a burglar I would certainly have been alarmed merely seeing the exhibit! Another simple stunt, passing under the name of 'Haunted House', had people wondering at the appearance of a 'ghost' on a bed. It used to disappear quietly, switching off a light bulb, and was based on the laws governing the reflection of light.

The world of Chemistry was represented by several exhibits but the eye-catcher was the colourful 'fountain' based on the different chemical properties of substances. Equally colourful was the sea shore formed by multicoloured rocks covered with artificial star fishes, crabs, jelly fishes and other such samples of marine life. However, even they could not equal the beauty of the collection of butterflies and other insects, one of which had been caught only minutes before the exhibition and was still alive when displayed.

The History and Geography rooms were not less colourful and artistic. The former had one particularly beautiful exhibit—a picture of The Taj Mahal delicately painted on glass. No words suffice to describe its beauty. As usual the portraits of many historical figures were being exhibited; however, another unique exhibit was present. This was a set of seals moulded from clay to form almost exact replicas of the originals, which dated back to the times of the Harappan culture. They were really wonderful specimens.

The Geography rooms were no less attractive. Apart from a sensational pin-up of photographs, relating to all the natural regions of the world and representing various landscapes and lifestyles, there were also miniature models in mud, clay, cotton, wood, matchsticks and other such raw material, reproducing those landscapes and lifestyles. One of the highlights of the Geography section was a much commended plantation in a setting amongst flanking hills with the farmer working in it.



ART, CRAFT & PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION



JUNIOR SCHOOL FANCY DRESS

The Art and Craft Room was a world apart. It had a row of coloured bulbs marking the way to it. I could have sworn that I was in some Department Store watching exhibits, so skilfully had the arrangements been made. The paintings, wall hangings, mirror stands, racks and other decorative articles were genuine works of art. If I had had the money I would have offered to buy them all! The range of handicraft equipment owned by the school is massive, and the wooden ships made with their help were skilful and exquisite. It makes one realise a great deal how well established the Handicraft Room is.

It had been a great day. I enjoyed seeing the exhibition once after the Thanksgiving Service and then again after the P. T. Display. The masters and boys together have done a fine job and I feel that they ought to be thanked for making the occasion a successful one. Seldom does one see such pride expressed and as great co-operation as on these occasions.

THE P. T. DISPLAY

Time : 5 15 p m.

The Chief Guest for the evening was Brigadier D. S. Rastogi, Dean and Dy. Commandant, A. F. M. C., a thorough gentleman who clearly values time. In fact, he arrived earlier than we expected him to! There was as usual the 'march past' accompanied by music of bagpipes and drums provided by an army band graciously lent to us.

This was followed by a mass performance by the Junior School, all drilling in some form or the other. There was the I Y C, a Star. B. S., and a Mitre formation and also one ribbon drill. It was a captivating sight, with masses of children waving their hands and feet with such innocent expressions on their faces that one wondered if they knew what they were doing. But the sight of children is always heartening and no one really noticed anything else but their faces. The teachers had done a really wonderful job in managing to co-ordinate the actions of so many children into one big wonderful display.

The children's item was followed by 'Groundwork' entailing all sorts of funny stunts like sun-fishing in which one leaps over the other alternately in quick succession, jumping and then being jumped over, and somersaulting and various other demonstrations in speed and agility. A new introduction this year was two clowns, who would each parody the other's actions making a real mess of themselves. They kept on falling off each other and really kept the crowd laughing throughout the show.

Rappelling came next. I am sure that we must be the only school to give such an exhibition. At least I know of no other school where rappelling is taught or displayed. It is a matter of confidence. If you can coolly step over the railings and not think much about it, and are not at all reluctant to drop off into thin air, being confident that when you are told that it is safe it is safe, then you can learn rappelling. Once the confidence is there, only the correct posture and other minor know-how is required. Our school has some really unique facilities. One must take advantage of them.

After they had seen the rappellers leap down from the third floor, Horsecwork appealed to everyone. Here too the clowns had some dangerous looking "accidents" Some children laughed so much that their stomachs started aching. One point which sets apart groundwork from all other items is that it not only shows the body fitness but includes

boys of nearly all the age groups in our school. Right from a small 3' 6" boy upto a 6' boy, all have been taught to do some trick or the other. Here too all sorts of somersaults and flips were seen.

This was followed by the club drill carried out by students of 8, 9 and 10. I can only say that it was done smoothly and was near perfect. Classes 5, 6 and 8 presented the lazem which always has a lilting tune to it with the dum, dum, dum and clinging, clinking which lightens the heart killing the previous fear that a club would accidentally leave someone's hand and hit one's stomach. Chair tricks, unfortunately, had to be cancelled. The sun would be setting soon and the generator, very kindly provided by the army, refused to function. This meant no lights.

Blind Boxing was carried out in semi darkness. However this did nothing to lessen its popularity. It is always great fun to see this contest. In blind boxing, the ring is one where four boys form the four corners and invariably it is one of these boys who gets hit, not the 'blind boxers' swinging around their basket balls. In my opinion the Mass P. T. Drill by standards 8, 9 and 10 was one of the best items in the show. In that semi darkness with the sun already set, their white dress stood out brightly. The precision of their movements was obvious. Their limbs moved as one. It was a truly wonderful spectacle.

The evening had presented much of beauty and skill. The organisation had been excellent and everything went on as if it were water flowing, calm and swift. (Incidentally, the tuck shop and ice-cream men must have virtually minted money). One has to thank the Army for once again extending their co-operation. They have always contributed to our success on these and other occasions.

THE ANNUAL FETE

Thursday, the 8th November 1979

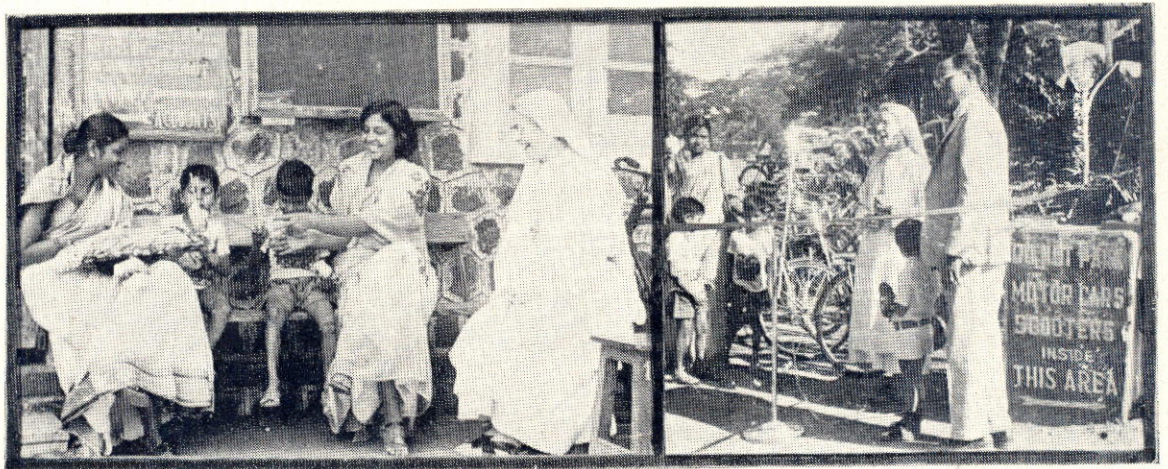
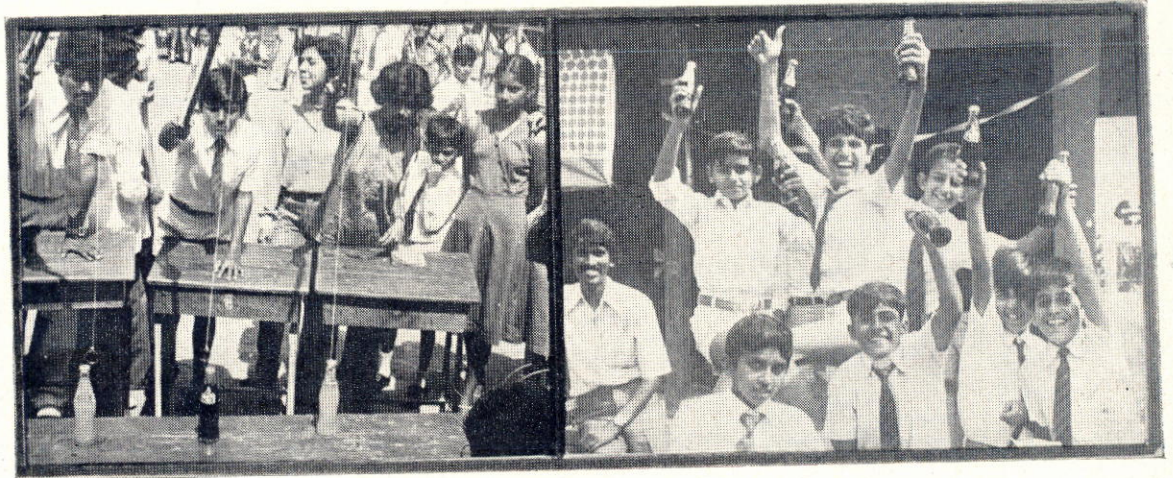
Time : 9 45 a. m.

Most old boys are willing to miss all other school occasions but when it comes to the fete they just cannot resist it. The entire staff do something and even the laziest boys want to help and have fun.

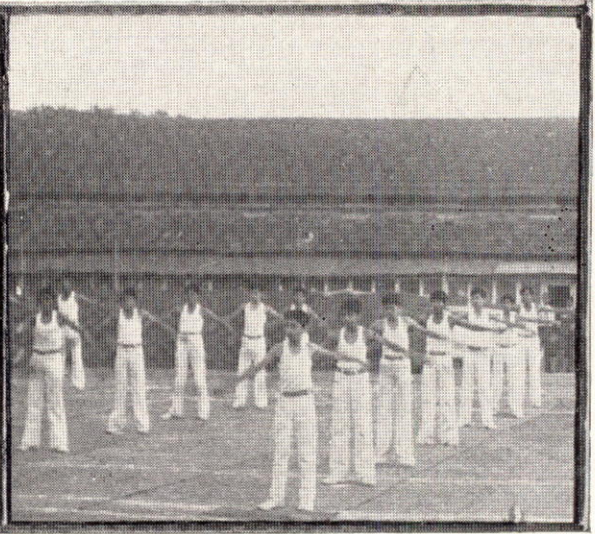
The ice-cream companies prepare their stalls a day in advance while others are always in a great hurry when putting up their stalls in their allocated places later, each class being responsible for at least one stall. And there are always the last minute arrangements and flashes of inspiration right up till the moment the ribbon is cut. The fact that Bishop's School had acknowledged 1979 as being the IYC was clearly witnessed when the honour of cutting the ribbon was, for the first time in Bishop's School history, given to a child from Panch Howdh while the charming Mother Enid Mary of the Convent of St. Mary, who had brought him, and a companion, looked on.

Except for the boys putting the last minute finishing touches to their stalls, the entire school was waiting impatiently for the ribbon to be cut. Then being unleashed they all rushed in order to be the first at the stalls. Parents, old boys, friends and associates of the school later drifted in slowly.

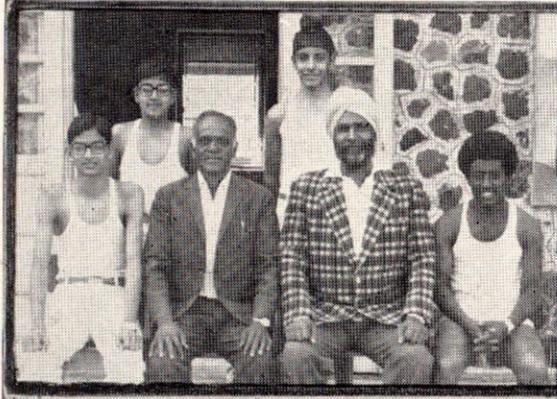
All wanted to taste the dishes and drinks concocted by the lady teachers which have long been one of the outstanding features of our fete. Not far behind were Messrs A



THE FETE



P. T. DISPLAY



VICTOR LUDORUM



INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE WINNERS



S. U. P. W.



INTER-CLASS HOCKEY

and S Fernandes and Mr. Nair with their snacks. There has always been a healthy competition between the lady teachers and the men teachers in the matter of snacks.

Naturally there were also the usual hoop-la stall, ring the bottles, and the 'coconut shy', 'Darts' and many other games of similar fashion. This year horse riding too flourished. This reminds me of the popular high stakes horse racing stall which Mr. Barrow usually runs. The 'lucky 7' stall was completely dominated by the old boys and the request stall was running riotously for some time. On the whole it was a very enjoyable day and very many lucky boys showed signs of their skill. Innumerable bottles of jam and pickle, as well as coconuts, were polished off then and there, while gay laughter, shouting and small talk almost drowned the blaring music—a day of rejoicing indeed! The late afternoon was so quiet, while streamers still stuck to some wooden posts and doors, that it was hard to believe that but a few hours before it had been difficult to move around in a hurry. And so there was a quiet ending to a glorious day.

THE CRICKET MATCH

Friday, the 9th November 1979 Time : 9.45 a.m.

I am an ignorant cricket fan. That sounds an improbable statement, but it is true. I was present for both the matches, the staff vs. old, old boys and also for the school boys vs. old boys, which take place simultaneously. For all the time I was gathering dust there, all I can recollect is that Samtani was just pulling fours from mid air piling up a really respectable score, while everyone just kept looking on. At one time it looked as if for the first time, perhaps, after a long, long, time the school team would better the old boys' team but it was not to be so. Meher-Homji and Wagle together played a fast-scoring innings after seeing nearly all their team mates fall and remained not out, bringing them the victory. Wagle, the captain, had gone in to bat early and seemed to be runing out of partners when Meher-Homji came in and decided that the situation had slipped far enough. A fuller description can be read in the article on cricket which, I am sure, will interest cricket lovers.

Founder's Week was over—till next year, when I look forward to coming back as an Old Boy!

A. Khudanpur 10. C

THANKSGIVING SERVICE 1979 SERMON BY THE PRINCIPAL

“May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be always acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer”

Our Annual Thanksgiving Service is like a signpost recalling us to our origins, prompting us to remember the noble dead, calling us to thank God for one of his best gifts to us – Our School.

It is right that we thank God for all who have laboured for this school, for our founders and benefactors, for the unstinted labour and sacrifice of men like Samuel Brierly and Bill Wright, and for the host of others known and unknown, and their enduring faith.

We praise God for having crowned our school with honour and length of days, and for His mighty protection and guidance. As we come here to St. Mary's Church year after year, let us pray that God will teach us that it is only with Him and His help that we can go forward from strength to strength.

We remember with deep pride Bishopites who have served faithfully in their several callings, especially those who have served the poor and needy, those who have ministered to the sick and down-trodden, those who fought for freedom and laid down their lives for the nation, those who have endeavoured sincerely to do the Holy Will of God. We pray that God will make us worthy of our heritage and preserve in all Bishopites the continual desire to cherish and strengthen all that is good, true and noble, in their own lives and in the life of the School.

The school is born and lives for a purpose. Let us look back, far back to 1864, when Rev. Fenton was moved to ask Bishop Harding to start a school for 15 boys, and you see our School labouring to be born. Follow its history, and see how it was nurtured and lovingly cared for by teachers, boys, principals and benefactors, who have made us debtors by their lavish generosity and devoted labours. See it get enriched with memories of names which cannot die. It lives and grows, it gathers strength in adversity, it binds together the tributary forces that make up its being, it marshals itself with laws and orders, rules and regulations, it builds up great and noble traditions, it assumes a noble destiny as it aspires to lead others, its prestige and influence spreads throughout India, and also to other lands.

Bishop's, as in the past, today has its common joys and sorrows, common shame or glory. Like those before, we glow with pride when those among us bring honour and like them we also feel a deep sense of common humiliation and shame, when those among us bring dishonour.

The life of the school is the sum total of the life we live as a school community. The character of the school is proved worthy or unworthy by us together, by the spirit that within her works and plays.

Surely then this thought must emphasise the collective responsibility of our corporate life. It casts upon each one of us the inescapable moral obligation and demand to conduct our lives in a manner that will make the life of Bishop's school worthy of the manifold blessings that God has so richly showered upon it.

My Boys, I believe that God has chosen to abundantly bless this school and make it great, because He desires that we serve Him and do His Holy will. It is our sacred duty to keep alive all that is best in it and today I specially emphasise five things that we all must endeavour to keep alive.

Firstly We must KEEP ALIVE THE GOOD INFLUENCE OF THE PAST. There is strength in deeply rooted traditions that have absorbed the best through the years, but even the traditions of a great institution do not survive automatically. There is constantly the danger of good traditions being altered to compromise with a changing or demoralising tide. It is the fashion of the age we live in to look back with a kind of antiquarian interest on the past, to treat it as if it were a closed chapter of dead things; but remember our roots are in the past, and we must not turn away from contemplating the past. We not only learn from books and lessons in class, we are also unconsciously learning from the formative influences of the past, and remember we in turn must leave behind an influence that will inspire generations yet unborn.

It is but a shallow mind that will not be awed at the privilege and responsibility that belongs to us as custodians of the life of this School. What marks of shame or glory shall we leave behind? What shall we deliver to those that follow? Shall it be bright, never ceasing to influence others in centuries yet to come? Shall it influence and enrich the lives of all its members? Shall it stand out as a worthy example and be sacred in its nature and design?

We as custodians of our traditions are called to fiercely guard what is good in it, add noble deeds and thoughts to it, and then pass it on with pride. We are called to be sound links in the chain that binds us to the past and to the future. We are called to self-sacrifice, obedience, resolve and strenuous effort to keep alive the good influence of the past.

Secondly, KEEP ALIVE A GOOD CONSCIENCE Look after it carefully day and night, because upon your conscience depends your sense of right and wrong, your choice of good or evil. Through your conscience God is perpetually calling and enquiring after you. Through your conscience God will wake you up to the evils around you. This conscience will prick you and disturb you till you cease to take poverty and misery for granted. It is your conscience that makes you own up to the wrong and consent to it no more. Conscience remains superior to all direction and to all control. It guards your tongue from slander, and above all it guides your feet to our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

A conscience that is alive is often stirred to fight evil, and, like Wilberforce was stirred to fight slavery in his day, we must be stirred to fight the evil of caste and bonded labour in our own land.

A School, too, has a character and conscience that can be distinguished by its common moral attributes, so let us pray that we here may acquire and preserve what the 'voice of God' through our common conscience demands of us.

Thank God then that you have a conscience that is not dead. Thank God every time you hear it speak.

I believe that you, my young friends, who are abundantly blessed with riches and talents will be called through your conscience to help alleviate the sufferings of the millions of poor and needy, and it will be a shame if you disobey God when the voice of conscience calls you.

Let your conscience guard you against acceptance of the devastating influence of modern ideas, often through the Radio, the Cinema, T. V., Magazines, Vulgar Novels; let your conscience guard you against the winds of change that are evil, guard you against a decadent modern elite society. Keep alive a good conscience.

Thirdly KEEP ALIVE YOUR HIGH IDEALS AND SPIRIT OF CONCERN

A conscience that is alive must create in us a concept of duty and concern for others.

It is a tragedy that year by year there is so much human suffering in our land due to floods and droughts, due to ignorance and poverty, due to exploitation of the rich, due to natural and man-made calamities. This year alone we have had floods in Gujerat, Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Assam and Bengal and the tragic Morvi disaster. We have drought in U. P., Andhra, parts of Punjab, Bihar, and Orissa, and famine conditions in thousands of villages. It would be very sad, if Bishopites were not moved to a deep sense of anguish and sympathy for the sufferings of those afflicted, and sadder still if we were not moved to do something, moved at least to give freely.

It is God's will that our spirit of concern must give us a national purpose, and make us conscious of our social responsibility.

Recently we launched on a scheme to raise funds to help a child in Panch Howd Mission. We have already collected Rs. 10,500 and the Fete should see us reach our target. Today we have fruits donated for the less fortunate children there. I hope that this concern will be kept alive not only in this International year of the child, but all through your lives, for there is not one child but thousands, nay millions, crying out for our help. May God put into our hearts that excellent gift of charity, the very bond of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before God.

Remember the words of Mother Teresa, the living saint who constantly reaches out to those in the gutters. She says to us all God loves you; love others as he loves you. Keep alive then your spirit of concern.

Fourthly KEEP ALIVE YOUR RESOLVE TO REMAIN HONEST AND UPRIGHT

Those of you who will 'pass out of school' in February and go on to college and elsewhere will be tested. You will find a world where dishonesty is rampant, where cheating in Exams is the order of the day, and misusing family influence to get positions and contracts a normal practice. A world where 'money power' seems to hold supreme sway, where almost everything can be had for a price, and you will be tempted by your friends and relatives and even parents, to use the worldly, unfair and unscrupulous means to get into and stay in positions of power. But God requires you to remain honest and upright, to stand firm, and keep alive your desire to resist evil and wrong. Have the 'courage' to resist this temptation - it will not be easy, and you may be even laughed to scorn by friends.

But I dare you in the sight of God today, dare you to have the courage that endures, dare you to hold on to all that is decent, dare you to keep your feet in the right path, dare you to resist the attractive pleasing ways of an evil Society, dare you to walk the long, lonely and difficult path to God with a clean heart, dare you to make the noble sacrifice, if need be, for God.

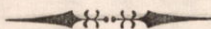
My young friends, do not subordinate your morals to politics or business, money power, or mean ambitions. Do not sacrifice your standards to the demands of high society, clubs, and elite circles, and may God grant that all here accept this challenge and have the courage that endures. Keep alive your resolve to remain upright.

Finally, WE MUST KEEP ALIVE OUR FAITH IN GOD

The spirit and life of a great institution does not remain alive on its own. It is an unshakable faith and trust in God that helps it to endure. It is written, if salt loses its savour it is then fit for nothing and cast away. It is vital that our faith and trust be kept alive, for God is the saving, sanctifying, life-giving power in a school. It is this faith that restores a moral attitude that is right. It is this faith that protects us from any evil influences of surroundings and thought, that leads us to honesty of deeds and words. It is this faith in God that makes us see the hollowness of money power or social position, and that makes us more kindly towards our fellowmen. God makes us content with plain living and common things and God alone helps us fulfil our destiny.

Jesus said if you have but a grain of the gift of Divine faith you will be able to overcome a mountain. May our faith be strong and never grow weak till the task He has committed to us is over.

So my friends let us keep alive these five things-THE NOBLE INFLUENCE OF THE PAST that keeps us anchored to our noble purpose; A GOOD CONSCIENCE that firmly resists evil and directs and controls our steps in the right path; A SPIRIT OF CONCERN AND LOVE that makes us care and live for others, especially the needy. A RESOLVE TO BE HONEST AND UPRIGHT and a courage that endures throughout life; and AN UNSHAKABLE FAITH IN GOD that will sanctify and serve and preserve us and our souls both in this world and the next.



THE BISHOP'S SCHOOL, PUNE — ICSE Results 1979/80

No. of boys entered for the examination.....	97
No. of successful candidates.....	92
No. of candidates that failed.....	5
PASS PERCENTAGE.....	94.8%

Placing in divisions according to our School Scheme

(based on the old I. S. C. system)

24 points and less (equal to old 1st division) ...	29 boys
25 points till 34 points (equal to old IIInd division) ...	43 boys
35 points till 42 points ... passes ... (equal to IIIrd division) ...	20 boys
Failures...	5 boys

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS ... Subject-wise

Grade	Very Good			Credit			Pass			Fail	Total	Pass %age
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
Subject												
English	7	13	20	17	22	15	3	—	—	97	100%	
Hindi	7	11	11	20	30	7	3	3	—	92	96.7%	
Mathematics	9	5	5	17	23	12	17	6	3	97	91.8%	
History	2	3	8	14	23	27	14	4	2	97	93.8%	
Geography	5	6	15	10	34	16	10	1	—	97	98.9%	
Science	8	4	8	14	21	17	20	4	1	97	94.8%	
French	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	5	60.0%	
Dutch	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	100%	
Art	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	100%	

ANALYSIS OF SCIENCE RESULTS : Subject-wise

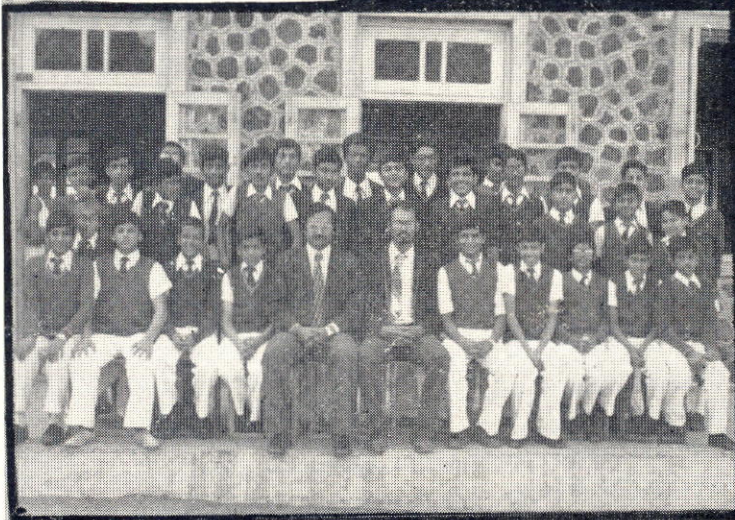
Grade	A	B	C	D	E
	Very Good	Good	Credit	Fair	Poor
PHYSICS	6	10	26	34	21
CHEMISTRY	13	16	22	29	17
BIOLOGY	7	18	48	24	—



HOCKEY
SENIORS



HOCKEY
JUNIORS



THE DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S
AWARD SCHEME
BOYS



I. C. S. E. CLASS

**Boys getting 24 points and less (6 points is the best anyone can get)
(equivalent to old I. S. C. 1st Division)**

R. Konkar	6	S. Bodas	14	R. Kumar	22
V. Deboo	7	B. Chobhe	14	G. Mukerjee	22
N. Kulkarni	7	C. Meher-Homji	16	S. Kishnani	23
L. Mahadevan	9	B. Tripathi	16	S. Kolse	23
J. Sanghvi	10	H. Divgi	17	A. Manghani	23
K. Idnani	11	D. Banerjee	20	A. Sengor	23
J. Maolankar	12	J. Sabharwal	20	R. Bhojwani	24
C. Shetty	12	M. S. Aujla	21	A. Panjwani	24
S. Gupta	13	A. Khudanpur	21	G. Sinha	24
P. Joshi	13	A. C. Joshi	22		

Boys getting 25 to 34 points (equivalent to old I. S. C. 2nd Division)

M. V. Kibe	25	S. Malhotra	28	S. K. Keswani	32
N. Parmar	25	F. T. Dholoo	29	G. Malhotra	32
S. E. Prabhu	25	G. M. Dhumal	29	J. R. Mayani	32
P. Yavalkar	25	J. Latif	29	C. K. Rohamare	32
V. Bilampelly	26	R. F. Mazda	29	R. S. Doshi	33
S. V. Chitale	26	P. D. Oswal	29	R. R. S. Marwa	33
P. U. Gokhale	26	M. K. Doshi	30	M. Yaveri	33
S. S. Deokar	27	K. C. Hemnani	30	Anil Chugani	34
R. K. Nihalani	27	K. M. Mutha	30	J. A. Pathak	34
A. M. Wagle	27	J. A. D'Silva	31	A. Sharma	34
N. J. Zingode	27	P. R. Lonkar	31	M. Shetty	34
J. S. Bindra	28	S. Y. Momin	31	H. Thadaney	34
S. Dewasthale	28	S. Nanwani	31	N. Vazir	34
J. S. Jhutti	28	R. M. Venkataramiah	31		
D. V. Kulkarni	28	P. Dennis	32		

Boys getting 35 to 41 points (equivalent to old I. S. C. 3rd Division)

J. A. Mahtani	35	M. B. Nimbalkar	36	R. H. Mehta	38
Salim M. B. Momin	35	E. Vastani	36	M. Mullan	38
N. Palesha	35	Suneel Chugani	37	R. R. Netto	38
S. Rangwani	35	M. H. Daswani	37	C. A. Dupratt	39
D. M. Yardi	35	J. Datt	37	R. Suttatti	40
S. Kapoor	36	B. Deshmukh	37	S. K. Agarwal	41
J. S. Khan	36	Y. Ghorpade	37		

RE-INCARNATION

My daughter Susan was a merry little child. She was about eight years old and used to study in the third standard of St. Patrick's School, Bombay. My husband and I were very fond of her and gave her everything she wanted. My husband used to leave her at school at seven in the morning and go back to fetch her at 12 noon. We used to give her our full attention as she was our only child and we did not want anything to happen to her. I used to miss her when she went to school, always thinking of her and making those five hours a complete waste of time.

Susan's life continued without any change until one day, when my husband went to leave her to school, he saw a man standing next to the school gate staring at her. My husband did not take much notice of it, but when he went to fetch Susan at noon, he saw the same man glaring at our daughter. From that day, he would stand next to the school gate daily and look at Susan with interest.

One day, due to some circumstances, Susan did not go to school. At about 7.30 a. m., we got a phone call inquiring why Susan had not come to school, and if anything was wrong with her. It was a man's voice, and therefore it could not be Susan's Principal or any of her teachers, as all of them were ladies. My husband assumed that it was the same man who had taken an affinity for Susan.

Then one day that man came to our house in the evening and inquired about Susan's health. Then he told us a story which I thought was ridiculous and without any truth :-

The man's name was Oliver Wordsworth and he was a well-to-do man. About eight years ago, his wife and his son had had a car accident. His wife was stuck in the car, which was all in flames, and had died a painful death. His son had died the instant the accident took place. That same night, he had a dream that his wife had taken birth just a few minutes after she had died and was re-born as Susan D'Mello somewhere in Bombay. He had then started on his search and, after eight years, he had managed to locate her.

He now claimed that Susan was his wife in her previous birth and made claim on her. My husband and I naturally thought this was a made-up story, even though I had a feeling that there was some truth in it. But I did not express this feeling and refused to part with Susan. The man then filed a case and claimed Susan. Since the court did not have faith in re-incarnations, his case was dismissed as completely baseless.

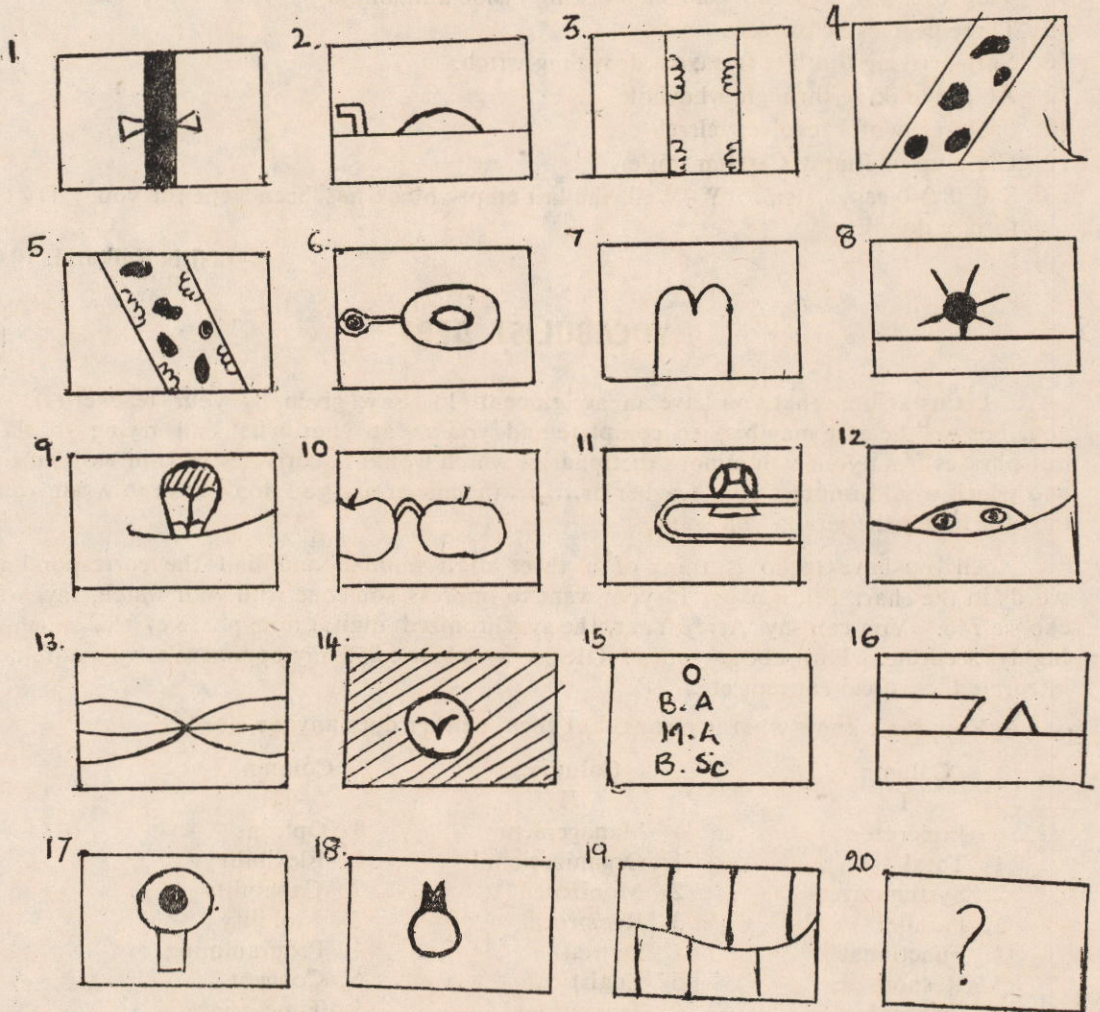
The man then made several attempts to get Susan, but he did not succeed in them. He led a very miserable life and my heart was full of pity for him, though it was firm not to give up Susan.

In the end, when he knew that his attempts to get Susan were futile, he lost the desire to live, took a heavy dose of poison and died. "May his soul rest in peace".

DOODLES : (for characters with extra imagination)

A Doodle is a picture which, at first glance, is absolutely meaningless unless one looks at the answer or allows extra-imagination to get the better of one. The following doodles are only a small part of the number that have been created by extra-imaginative and highly witty minds.

Do the following doodles and see how many you can get. Answers given below.
Well then, on your marks ! Set ! go !



- 1 Man in bow-tie who stood too close to the doors of a lift.
- 2 Fat man in soft bed smoking a pipe.
- 3 A bear climbing a tree as seen through a window.
- 4 Giraffe passing a window.
- 5 Giraffe returning with a bear hanging on its neck.

- 6 A Mexican frying an egg as seen from the top.
- 7 A nudist bending down.
- 8 A spider doing a hand stand.
- 9 Fat lady jumping off a diving board.
- 10 Worm changing apples.
- 11 Pigeon asleep on a TV aerial.
- 12 Frightened baby kangaroo in its mother's pouch.
- 13 Pelicans kissing.
- 14 View of a bird as seen by a man working inside a manhole.
- 15 Three degrees below zero.
- 16 Ship arriving too late to save a drowning witch.
- 17 An eye looking through a keyhole.
- 18 Front view of a revolver barrel.
- 19 Close up of Jimmy Carter's smile.

S-0-0-0-0 easy. Isn't it? Well, the last empty block has been kept for you. Try to form a doodle.

— Nitin Kulkarni, 10 C

VOCABULIST DEPT.

Let us assume that you have an assignment (!) (say, given by your teacher (s), or your boss as the case may be) to complete and you are at your wits' end trying to find out phrases from your voluminous dictionaries which would fit correctly in your assignment and which would impress your teacher or.....in this jet age you don't have to waste your time for here's the jargon you want.

All you have to do is think of a three digit number and find the corresponding words in the chart below e. g. If you want to impress someone with your watch, say, you choose 746. You can say 'Arrey Yaar, the synchronized digital time-phase of this watch is highly accurate. How about yours? OR in a debate : 055-my opponent's views are not integrated logistical concept etc.

You don't know what it means, but then, neither does anyone else !

Column I	Column II	Column III
0 Integrated	0 Management	0 Options
1 Total	1 Organizational	1 Flexibility
2 Systematized	2 Monitored	2 Capability
3 Parallel	3 Reciprocal	3 Mobility
4 Functional	4 Digital	4 Programming
5 Responsive	5 Logistical	5 Concept
6 Optimal	6 Transitional	6 Time-phase
7 Synchronised	7 Incremental	7 Projection
8 Compatible	8 Third-generation	8 Hardware
9 Balanced	9 Policy	9 Contingency

(Adapted from an article in the Nov. 68 issue of Public Administration Review)

— Nitin Kulkarni, 10 C

EXAMINATIONS

I don't think there is any student in the world who welcomes examinations. Examinations are dreaded by everyone. It is a pity to see the worn out, nervous faces of students entering the examination hall and I shudder to think what I look like at that time. A student puts months of effort on to paper in two hours, which is corrected by the examiners in ten minutes. Some students learn everything well, but on seeing the question paper, their minds go blank.

All students have to work very hard to achieve the best they are capable of getting. Those who don't bother to study fail. The students usually have one or two hours to study before the examination, and every student tries to grasp as much information as he can during that period. Then comes the great test for him to express his ideas about all he has comprehended. When the examination is over, the students heave a sigh of relief.

After a few days everybody is anxious for the results. When the results are out some are happy about their achievement. It is a pleasure to do well and receive a pat on the back from teachers and parents. This encourages us to do better next time. Those who do not do well are also inspired by the results of those who work hard. There is great competition among the bright students and as you go to higher classes the competition becomes tougher.

But it requires character for the not-so-clever ones to keep going in spite of setbacks, and character-building is the most important thing a boy acquires in school, so the weaker ones do stand a chance to benefit by their experiences.

Pawan Chadha 7 C

THE FLOOD

Venice is called "The City of Canals." There, the people move about in fancy gondolas on the network of canals. The floods of 1978 turned Calcutta into an Asian Venice. It was a unique experience for me, but it was far from being beautiful or pleasant.

The flood was mainly due to heavy and continuous rains and a bad drainage system. The river Bhagirathi-Hoogly overflowed. The flooding was helped by the narrow streets of the city.

I live in North Calcutta, one of the city's most congested parts. It all started with a few drops of water. Soon it began to rain cats and dogs. Slowly but surely water began to accumulate in the streets. In dismay, we saw it rise to the level of the door. At the passing of every car a fresh wave entered into our house. We sat huddled up in the rooms farthest away from the door.

In a few hours Calcutta became transformed. Life became stagnant. It rained more heavily, so much so that it seemed the sluice gates in heaven had been opened. Communication was disrupted and telephone wires snapped. As fate would have it, the electric cables in our area broke plunging our house into complete darkness. We sat in the cold with

faces as long as violins. With growing alarm, we watched the water level rising. We piled what we could onto the dining table and beds and went upstairs to stay with our neighbour.

For three days the rains continued. During that time we stayed in semi-darkness, eating only "Khichdi."

Going out was out of the question, and even if we did no vegetables were available. The water reached a level of four feet. Whenever the rains stopped people waded through the streets to borrow what they needed from their neighbours. But they hung on to some piece of wood for fear of falling into open manholes or drains. Our next-door neighbour's condition was specially pitiable; trenches had been dug for the installation of telephone wires. These filled up and formed inaccessible moats.

In spite of all this it was not so bad, for we were having no school and father was also having a forced holiday. It seemed like an island. In fact, I thought we were repeating what Noah did aeons ago. After three days the water subsided and we stepped down from the Ark (the first floor) on to solid ground (the ground floor).

With the end of the deluge, our holidays were over. We were half sorry, half joyful that life had started moving again.

Sandip Bhattacharya 8 A

On the day of the local match, the captain was talking to one of his men.

"Look, here's a pound," he said. "Go out and buy a new ball or something. Anything that'll help us win."

The match began and the captain noticed that the same old ball was being used. He called his man over. "What did you do with the pound?" he asked.

"Well you said anything to help us win."

"Yes."

"I gave it to the umpire."

* * *

Mr. Gryt : I have heard that the middle of the train is the safest, so far as accidents are concerned. When there are accidents, the two ends of the train usually get the most damage.

Mr. Myrt : Goodness me ! Then why don't they take the ends off ?

* * *

Mr. Miles : How did the argument with your wife turn out ?

Mr. Giles : "Oh, she came crawling to me at last on hands and knees."

Mr. Miles : "Really ? What did she say ?"

Mr. Giles : "Come on out from under that bed, you coward !"

Atul Kapil 8 C

A HOUSE ON FIRE

I had never seen a house on fire before, so, one evening when I heard the loud alarm bells of fire engines rushing past my house, I quickly ran out, and a few streets away, joined a large crowd of people; but we could see the fire only from a distance because the police would not allow any one near the building which was ablaze.

What a terrible scene I saw that day! Huge flames of fire were coming out of each floor and thick black smoke spread all around. Every now and then tongues of fire would shoot up almost sky high, sending huge sparks of fire all around. Three fire engines were busily engaged and the firemen in their dark uniform were playing the hose on various parts of the building. The rushing water from several hoses soaked the building but it did not seem to have any effect on the flames. Then the tall red ladders of the engines were stretched upwards and I could see some firemen climbing up with hose pipes in their hands. On reaching almost to the top of the ladder, they began to pour floods of water on the topmost part of the building. This continuous flooding brought the fire under control, but the building was completely destroyed.

While fire is a blessing in many ways, it can also be a great danger to human life and property.

Arvind Shinde 8 C.

THE SINGAPORE TRIP

The Singapore trip was a very enjoyable one and most of the boys who came along wanted to do some shopping.

We left for Madras by train and arrived there after two days. On the train the boarders on the first day had forgotten to bring their lunch packets! They stared daggers at the person responsible* for the rest of the afternoon. Nevertheless the boarders got what they could from the day-scholars, which was a lot!

We reached Madras and, after an evening of touring, we slept soundly. Then we went to the port. The porters helped the little ones with their baggage and we dragged our bags into a huge hall. Here we waited while Mr. Daniell and Mrs. Mirchandani got our passports ready. After all the formalities we boarded the ship. When we first saw the ship from the outside, it didn't come up to our expectations, but when we went inside "Voila!" It was not a dream boat but it surpassed our expectations.

We thoroughly enjoyed the four-day voyage to Penang, which was our first stop. There we went to an animal park where a few boys started yelling "alligator"! We went running to see and found a couple of over-grown monitor lizards. Well it was just another case of mistaken identity. Everyone enjoyed the short stay and we carried on to Singapore.

At Singapore, shopping really started (so did all the fleecing). The World Trade Centre, People's Park, and Peninsula Plaza were the places most frequented by the boys. Many bought tape decks, two in ones etc. which afterwards had to be taken special care of. Organized tours were carried out in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Port Kelang and Singapore. Every one enjoyed the trip to Santossa island by cable car. On the way back we came to Kuala Lumpur and Port Kelang again.

Well all good things must come to an end, so did this outing. Before long we found ourselves back in Madras. Everyone got back safely and at Poona parted with happy good byes. We shall always remember this trip to Singapore.

Sigmund De Souza 9 A.

(*I happen to know that the person responsible was the author! Editor.)

MUSIC : FACTS AND FEATS

Musical Instruments

Guitar :

The most expensive normal-sized guitar is the "Gretsch White Falcon", valued in 1970 at £ 500.

Piano :

- (1) The world's ugliest piano was the one presented to Napoleon III by Queen Victoria on the occasion of his marriage. It is constructed in the shape of Napoleon's hat and, when it was sold in December 1971 for £ 220 to Tokyo University, a representative said that the instrument is "unbelievably grotesque".
- (2) The most adventurous history of any musical instrument was experienced by the so-called "Siena piano". It was built in about 1798 by Marchesio of Turin and became a wedding present to Rebecca Marchesio and Antonio Ferri upon the occasion of their wedding in about 1820, and was taken to the Ferri farmstead in Siena. Antonio Ferri, a grandson of this union, built the cabinet which survives today from wood reputed to be from the pillars of Solomon's Temple. The panels are carved with cherubs, drinking-scenes, etc. The celebrated pianist and composer, Franz Liszt, said that its tone was "divine".

The following year it was made another wedding-gift this time to Crown Prince Umberto from the city of Siena, and was taken to Rome by the Prince. Its following years were obscure and peaceful, but apparently the instrument was looted by the Germans during the Second World War and taken to North Africa to entertain the Nazi troops. Left behind during their retreat after the Battle of El Alamein, it was discovered by a salvage party and nearly blown up when suspected of being a booby trap. Somehow it had acquired a thick coating of plaster which hid its true identity even from specialists. This fact, along with the fact that its interior was filled with sand, rendered it useless for playing until repairs were later carried out.

Its most ignominious period had arrived, during which it served as anything but a musical instrument : a meat-storage cabinet, a beehive, and a chicken incubator, among other things - in the hands of a scrap-dealer in Tel Aviv. It was at last rescued by Avner Carmi the piano-tuner and grandson of the piano virtuoso - Mathis Yarmovsky. Carmi removed the plaster with the aid of 109 litres of acetone and rebuilt the action and stringing. Only the miraculously preserved sounding-board survived. After three years of ceaseless labour, Carmi brought it back to playing condition, after which it was shipped to New York, where a series of recordings were made.

Submerged Instruments :

In March 1975 an under-water performance of Handel's Water Music was given by solo violinist Mark Gottlieb in the Evergreen State College Swimming Pool in Olympia, USA. Similar venues may be chosen for future performances of Vaughan Williams' "Sinfonia Antarctica" and Holst's "The Planets".

COMPOSERS

1. The Unfortunate Ones :

(a) Blind :

Johann Sebastian Bach-(1685-1750) went blind in later life.

Frederick Delius-(1862-1934) ended his life blind and partially paralysed. He was able to continue composing through the patient and selfless assistance of Eric William Fenby.

Joaquin Rodrigo-(b 1902), Spanish composer of the world famous 'Aranjuez' Concerto, went blind in 1905.

(b) Deaf :

Ludwig van Beethoven-(1770-1827), started to notice symptoms of deafness before he was thirty, and the malady grew progressively worse until, towards the end of his life, silence closed in completely. In spite of this, he continued composing right upto the end : the "Choral" symphony and many of his greatest piano sonatas and string quartets were composed during the last ten years of total silence.

(c) Insane :

Robert Schumann-(1810-1856), German composer, suffered from a mental disorder which led him to attempt suicide. He died in a mental home.

Bedrich Smetana-(1824-1884), Bohemian, composer whose deafness led to his mental collapse.

(d) Murdered :

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart-(1756-1791), The allegation, perpetuated in Rimsky-Korsakov's opera "Mozart and Salieri," that Mozart was done to death by Salieri (because the former's operas were doing too well? Hardly!) has never been proved, although there is evidence to show that Mozart's demise was not due to natural causes but to some kind of poisoning.

(e) Unusual Circumstances :

Jean-Baptiste Lully-(1632-1687), He was composer in the court of Louis XIV and he kept his ensemble together by beating loudly on the floor with a heavy staff. Accidentally striking his foot one day, he developed a tumour which proved fatal.

Johann Schobert (1720-1767), German composer of instrumental music who lived in Paris. He and his family were wiped out upon mistaking toadstools for mushrooms.

2. Some Outstanding Features :

(a) The most tortuous distortion of a composer's name-surrounds the Flute Concerto in D Major by Pokorny, which was attributed to, and has been recorded as by Boccherini. This particular misattribution came about as a mis reading of a name on the autograph.

P	O	K	O	R	N	Y
B	O	CCH	E	RI	N	I

(b) The most arrogant composer-was Richard Wagner (1813-1883). Many stories circulate to illustrate his high handed attitude with his associates; one which typifies his overt disdain of the Jewish race is the report of his habit of conducting the music of the

Jewish composer Felix Mendelssohn only while wearing gloves ! At the end of the performance he would remove them and throw them to the floor, to be removed by cleaners !

(c) **The fastest composer ?**—This question has often been asked, but the answer cannot be clear since the question is imprecise. The consistently fastest composer must be Franz Schubert who composed over 1000 works (each of his operas, cycles of songs numbering up to 24 individual items, suites of dances for piano or orchestra, etc counting as one each) in eighteen years, five months. There are many instances in which Schubert would start and finish a work during the course of a single day.

(d) **The youngest composer**—of music which is still available for performance is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose earliest work was a Minuet and Trio in G Major, dated 1761, when the composer was four years old. Several more pieces appeared the following year, and thereafter his output accelerated.

(e) **The Devil and his associates**—include the composers Niccolo Paganini (1782–1840) and Giuseppe Tartini (1692–1770).

Niccolo Paganini, Italian violinist and composer, was one of the most famous executants in musical history. It was as an exponent of his own works that Paganini performed the greatest feats. Tall and skeletal, he played the violin with such verve and demonic intensity, that many people believed him to be inspired by the Devil. His death, in Nice, brought in its wake a legend that he had been buried alive !

Giuseppe Tartini was supposedly inspired by the devil in a dream. The composer, in his dream, sold his soul to the Devil, who proceeded to give a remarkable performance on the violin. When Tartini awoke he attempted to write down what he heard, but the result (he claimed) was far inferior.

ORCHESTRAS, CONCERTS AND PERFORMERS

The largest hall used for performance of 'serious' music—is The Hollywood Bowl, opened in 1919 on a 20 hectare site in a natural depression, Beechwood Canyon, Hollywood. The summer series of "Symphonies under the Stars" is held every year, and the seating capacity of 25,000 is not excessive.

The greatest attendance of any 'classical' concert—was 130,300 for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Leonard Bernstein at Sheep Meadow in Central Park, on 6 August 1974.

The most encored work at one concert—was the waltz "Sinngedicht" by Johann Strauss II : at the composer's first concert in Vienna in 1844 this work was encored nineteen times.

Highest-Paid Performers :

Pianist : The highest-paid classical concert pianist was Ignace Jan Padarewski (1860–1941), who accumulated a fortune estimated at \$ 3,000,000, of which \$ 5000 was earned in a single season in 1922–1923.

Violinist : The Austrian born Fritz Kreisler (1875–1962) is reputed to have received more than \$ 3,000,000 during his career.

Singers : Of great fortunes earned by singers, the highest on record are those of Enrico Caruso (1873–1921) whose estate was about \$ 9,000,000. The Italian-Spanish coloratura soprano Amelita Galli-Curci (1889–1921) earned about \$ 3,000,000.

Cyrus A. Meher-Homji 10 A.

MY LIFE AS A LION

I am a lion. My name is Sher Shah and my wife's name is Mrs. Shah. We live in a zoo in Pune. The boys from the Bishop's School often come to the zoo. My master gave me away to the circus. There I had lots of food to eat. I used to bathe in a big hot water tub. When I growled, twelve servants were there to calm me down. At the circus show my friends and I were surrounded by bars. I was angry with my master because he would hit me with a whip. When my turn came I had to jump through the ring of fire which made me afraid. So after my performance, I jumped over the bars and ran out of the tent. The people were very frightened. I went in search of my wife in the zoo and then returned to the jungles. When I met her we tried to run away. The owner of the zoo chased us but we were faster. They phoned the police and when the police came we hid on a banyan tree. We attacked and killed them. Then we returned to the woods where I met my mother and father and we related our adventures. We lived happily ever after, talking to the monkeys and birds and other friends.

— Kevin Arokiaswamy 3A.

AN ADVENTURE IN THE HILLS

One day my friends and I decided to go on a hike to the hills. We had to take our bikes because it was a long way from our home.

In the morning we set off on our bikes. We found a big tree. We rested under it because we were very tired. In the afternoon we ate our food. Then we saw some big caves. We went inside to see. It was rather dark so I had to switch on my torch. We found a small opening that led into a small cave. It was very dirty and there were many cobwebs. We came out and saw that it was very cloudy. In a little while it started to rain.

We took our bikes and put them into the cave, but the rain came into the cave and wet us. We quickly ran in the small opening and entered another cave. I switched on my torch. I saw a door. We all had to push it. We were all very excited. There was another small cave and when we went in we saw many bags of money and jewels. We quickly ran out and went to the police station. We told them what we had found. They came with us and they took all the bags.

They gave us a reward. We went home and told our parents about the adventure.

— A. Hakim 4A

MY LIFE AS A FISH

I am a whale. I live in the Norwegian sea. I live with my father, mother and brother. I hope you want me to tell you a little about my adventures.

One day, some pirates were sailing on a ship. Suddenly a storm arose. The ship sank in the water. All the men were drowned and I ate most of them. I also kept all the treasure with me, so that if a net is put down, I will put the treasure on it and let it go.

— S. Kifle 3B

A HOLIDAY BY THE SEA

I went to Africa for my holiday and we went to the sea-side many times. Once, when we went to the sea, a man was selling shells. He gave me a shell and a piece of coral and I gave them to my father. We went to the sea and swam there. Then we went to the lodge near the sea and ate fish and chicken. Later we returned to the sea. I built a lovely sand castle and a wave came and swept it away. I put ice-cream sticks as gates and found fish with different colours. It was very beautiful at sunset. My uncle took us for a ride in a B. M. W. Later, we went to a hotel for chinese food before we returned home to sleep.

— P. Gowadia 3B

MY SUMMER HOLIDAYS

I went to Goa for my summer holidays. We went by car with my friends. When we reached Goa, we stayed in a place called Panjim. On the first afternoon, we went to a beach called Kalangoot. There we played in the sand and also in the sea. On the second day we crossed a bridge by ferry and stayed in another hotel called Virshly, opposite the Colva beach. There we stayed for two days. At Colva beach we saw many fishermen catching fish. We also saw some hippies swimming in the water. After a refreshing swim, we went back to the hotel and had a good bath and some cold drinks.

Next we went to Kolhapur for a day. We reached Kolhapur at 6.30 in the evening and put up in a hotel called Camlin. On the following day we returned to Pune having enjoyed our short trip to Goa.

— Pratap Sarkar 3A

MY LIFE AS A FISH

When I was a baby, I was caught in a fisherman's net, but I was small enough to escape. When I was a year old, I made friends with a sea-horse and a gold fish.

One day a big whale came and gobbled me up. It was lucky that I was a sword fish. I poked the whale and, when it opened its mouth, I jumped out and swam away.

— Umeed Kothawala 3A

MY LIFE AS A PIRATE

One day when I was on the beach a bottle was washed ashore by a wave. I took it and opened it. I found a treasure map.

I went to town and called all my men, but a man said "Don't go to that land, my men, because I have heard that there is a witch and all the men who have gone to that land have not come back yet". But we were not afraid, so we went to that land; it was very cold there.

The next day a man was missing. Each day a man used to disappear. At last I was left alone. That night I saw the witch. I tried to kill her but she flew away.

She came again and I killed her. I found the treasure. When I picked it up, I saw the dead pirates and many other people, and I felt very sorry for them.

When I reached the town, I told the story to the people. They were very sad. For two days, no one in the town was happy.

— V. Malkani 4A

A GALLANT SCOUT

On the 15th of August, our class 3B went on an excursion to Monkey Hill by train. One boy sang, another played the flute and some dozed. Suddenly we heard a bang. We thought it was a paper bag bursting, but it was fire. Soon the flames began to spread out and we became panicky. We ran out as fast as we could. A small boy called Pankaj got left behind. He got very scared, but I jumped inside and emptied my big water bottle on him. We telephoned for another train to pick us up and then continued to Pune, where I got a medal.

— N. Postwalla, 3C

THE STORM I WAS CAUGHT IN

I shiver with fear even to-day when I recall to mind the terrible experience I had when I was caught in a storm. I was then returning to my village near the sea.

Hardly had I climbed down from the bus when the sky began to be overcast by clouds. Flashes of lightning streamed across the sky. The roars of thunder frightened me. Then rain poured down on me. Cottages had been blown down. The walls of houses crumbled like a pack of cards. Telegraph-posts, electric lines and trees were uprooted. The road was blocked. Great damage was done to the fields and gardens. Many poor families became homeless wanderers. A temple near the sea afforded me shelter. The waves dashed on a ship at sea and overturned it. A few people in it were drowned.

When the storm was over, I returned home thanking God for having saved me from the storm.

— S. Gurjar, 4C.

THE FARMER

There are many important men in our lives. One of them is the farmer. The farmer has to work very hard in the fields. He grows bajra, jowar, wheat, rice, and maize. The fields are very big and wide. The farmer ploughs his fields. He takes his plough and bullocks and works for many hours. He goes to the well and fetches water for his fields. Sometimes he goes to the market and sells the crops and earns a little money to buy soap, food, clothes, salt and matches.

The farmer has to work hard and grow crops to feed his family.

— Manish Thakore, 4C

MY LIFE AS A PENGUIN

I am a penguin. I live on an island with many other penguins. My name is Misty.

I am very happy to be here because there is ice all around. There are many fish too. I was almost caught by a seal and a hunter once. Another time, I was nearly lost in a snow-fall. I found my way by following the footsteps I had made in the soft snow. I was very happy to be home again but I haven't told anyone but you. Now I will tell you how I got caught and put in a zoo on this island. One day I was playing in the snow when I saw some hunters. I ran to tell the other penguins about them. But on my way I fell into their trap and now I am in the zoo. Since then I have never seen my friends again though I hope I will be able to see them one day.

— Nikhil Gera, 4C

MOHAN SAVES THE TRAIN

There was a boy called Mohan. He would walk to school every day because he had no cycle and his parents were very poor. Mohan would take a short-cut across the railway lines because the way to his school was very long. One day he was feeling very proud because he was wearing his new red shirt. As he was walking over the rails, he saw that one of them was broken. Mohan did not know what to do. If he tried to stop the train, the driver might not see him and would hit him. Suddenly he thought of his red shirt. He would take off his shirt and signal for the train to stop. Just then the train came round the curve. Mohan waved the shirt as a signal to stop. The engine-driver stopped the train and came down. Mohan showed him the damage. Everyone praised Mohan for stopping the train. Next day his name came in the newspaper. He also got a lot of money as a reward.

With the money his family became rich. Then they all lived happily ever after.

— Arjun Anand, 4C

AN ADVENTURE

One day, my friend and I were sailing on a boat. Suddenly a storm arose and we were swallowed by a whale.

It was very dark in the whale, so I took out my flashlight. I saw that it was not really a whale but a pirate submarine. I had an excellent idea. There was a tin lying nearby. So I took out my pocket knife and I cut out an 'SOS' and I put it against the smoke pipe. Then I let out the smoke. When the pirate captain looked through his binoculars to see if the storm was over, he saw that there were police ships surrounding his submarine.

The police captured the pirate gang. They took me and my friend back to town and gave us a reward.

— A. Rathi, 4B

MY ADVENTURES IN RABBITLAND

One day as I was walking in Bluebell wood I spied a little rabbit dressed in a black top hat and a long red coat. It called out to me and so I followed it.

We went through a long dark passage. Then the rabbit knocked on a tree and a trap door opened. We climbed down fifty steps and came to a stream. There were two boats. The rabbit jumped into one and I into the other. On the other side of the stream was a party and all the rabbits were enjoying themselves. The rabbit took me there and I had a lot of lemonade, cakes, jelly, chocolates and toffees and many other delicious things to eat. Suddenly a fox came and started to chase me. I ran for my life.

SPLASH : I fell into a pond. I woke up and found I had fallen into a basin of water near my bed.

— A. GOPALRAM, 4B

A HAUNTING TALE

Once my mother, her brothers, and eldest sister went to a funeral. At the funeral the dead body was wrapped in a white cloth. When all the guests arrived, they took off the white cloth and gave it to my mother's younger brother. When all the guests were going home, my mother's younger brother forgot to give the cloth back. That night, when everyone went to sleep they heard a noise in the dining hall. They woke up and saw the white cloth eating food. Then it suddenly disappeared. It went back and wrapped itself around the dead body.

My mother's younger brother never went to a funeral again.

— B. Muthanna, 4B

MY LIFE AS A SWALLOW

I am a swallow named Blackie. One cold winter day my friends and I flew to a warm country. We flew until we came to an island.

We found a giant whose food was birds. Every day he used to eat eleven or twelve birds. The island was warm throughout the year. There were fruits and everything that a bird could wish for. But we could not live happily there because of the giant. Every day we were growing less in numbers. So I made a plan. I hid alone in a tree and waited for hours. At last the giant came and I acted fast and flew in his face and before he knew what was happening, I pecked him in his eyes and made him blind. After a few minutes he died. The birds were very happy and they made me their king. I brought my family too and lived happily ever after.

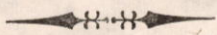
— R. Rawat, 4A

AN ADVENTURE

One day my friends and I decided to seek an adventure. We were going on a sailing boat to a far away island. When we left home, we were very happy. But after some days we felt home sick.

In the night the sea was very rough. Suddenly a storm approached and the waves were as high as our main mast. Water started coming into our boat and there was a hole at the bottom of our boat. We abandoned the boat and swam into the angry waters. In the morning we felt sand under our feet and saw an island in front of us. We were so tired that we fell fast asleep. When we awoke, we saw a helicopter and shouted and waved. They saw us and took us home safely.

— S. Venkataramiah, 4A



BLIND PEOPLE

Blind people cannot see. They cannot see their brothers, sisters and parents. They cannot enjoy the bright sunlight or the beauty of the flowers, moon and stars. The whole world is dark for them.

In olden days blind people were treated very cruelly. Their parents did not want them because they were born blind or had become blind due to some illness. They could not do any work. So their parents threw them out and they had to go begging on the streets, as that was the only way they could earn money. Some times they did not get any money and they starved. Some people threw stones at them and called them the untouchables.

Today blind people have learned to read by feeling raised dots that a Frenchman, named Louis Braille, had invented. Blind boys can write, read and even play the harmonium and they can even tell the time. Blind men today work in offices to earn a living. Blind girls can sew, weave, make paper flowers and beautiful straw baskets. What a wonderful new life for them !

— A. Taneja, 4 B

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

It was the last day at school and I was very excited because it was going to be a very busy holiday. I wished all my friends "A Merry Christmas" and when the bell rang I ran home.

When I reached home I wrote a letter to Santa Claus. As soon as I finished it, I posted it and I went out with my daddy to buy the decorations and the Christmas tree. When we reached home my father took my mother to the market to buy the fruits for the cake. Then we started decorating the Christmas tree and the house. Before we started we had to clean the rooms. We put up the balloons and by the evening all was ready.

Just as we were going to start our dinner we heard the sweet voices of carol singers. So we called them in and shared our dinner with them. In the night I went to sleep hoping to get my nice present as I had been a very good boy all the year through.

— R. Whabi, B4

हिन्दी विभाग

“ बढ़ने दो इसे सदा आगे
हिंदी जन-मन की गंगा है,
हो कान पवित्र इसी सुर में,
इसमें ही हृदय तड़पने दो,
हिंदी है भारत की बोली,
तो अपने आप पनपने दो । ”

—नेपाली



खुशामद एक कला

— ईश्वर आगरवाल, ९ ब

संसार में अनेक कलाएँ तथा शिल्प हैं लेकिन जिसके लिए प्रैक्टिकल नोलेज अथवा जिस कला का न तो कोई स्कूल है न कालेज, पर जिसे अपने आप ही सिखने पड़ती है, वह है खुशामद। जिसे हर कोई सीख नहीं सकता है।

आज-कल जिधर भी जाइएगा, चपरासी से लेकर उच्च अधिकारी को उनकी वास्तविकता क्या है पूछिएगा, अगर सच्चे हैं तो सब यही कहेंगे कि यह उस पूज्य खुशामद देवि का भोग है। जिस भोग को प्राप्त करने से मनुष्य क्या देवता भी पिघल जाते हैं।

आजकल जनाब, हुजुर, अन्नदाता, सेठ ये सब खुशामद के शब्द बहुत पुराने हो चुके हैं। अगर ये शब्द आज के युग में जिसकी खुशामद हो रही है उसे कह दिए जाए तो समझ लीजिएगा सब काम फल (बिगड़) हो गया और जिनकी खुशामद हो रही है उनकी खुशामद करनेवाले को और भी उस कला में माहिर होना अत्यावश्यक है क्योंकि वे भी खुशामद के जोर पर इस उच्च ओहदे पर बैठे हैं। इसीलिए बड़ी होशियारी से खुशामद करनी चाहिए। अगर आप इस कला में माहिर होना चाहते हैं तो जरा इन सिद्धांतों को अपने दिमाग में कसकर बैठा लीजिएगा। कहीं फिसल न जाए।

सबसे पहले जनाब साहब का घर देखिएगा, बीबी हो और बच्चे हो तो काम और आसानी से बन जाएगा। उस बच्चे को अगर रोते देखा तो उसे कुछ चीज देकर चुप करवा दो या गोदी में उठा लो। भले ही वह काला क्यों न हो उसकी प्रशंसा कीजिए। क्या नाक-नक्शा है! क्या रूप है! यह उन जनाबसाहब के श्रीमति के सामने प्रस्तुत करने की कोशिश कीजिएगा। बस वह श्रीमति अपने बच्चे को आपकी गोद में देखकर

आप पर प्रसन्न हो जाएगी। बस, उसी समय अपनी समस्या उनके सामने रख दीजिएगा और कह दीजिए जरा इतना-सा काम करवा देने को कहना। समझ जाओ तौर निशाने पर लगा। खुशामद का प्यार का मत समझिएगा, बीबी के आगे तो अफसर क्या चपरासी भी भीगी बिल्ली की तरह रहता है। बीबी के मता-नुसार वह काम पूरा। अगर यह सब आपसे नहीं होता तो उनके घर जाकर उनके चीजों की प्रशंसा कीजिएगा और इस तरह पेश आइएगा कि आप बनाड़ी हैं।

उठाकर क्या पेन है? क्या यह नया मोडल आया है?

वाह, क्या फोटो है!!

वाह, क्या चश्मे का फ्रेम है, क्या यही नया मॉडल है।

इन सबसे तो वे साहब पिघल जाएंगे। अगर वे इससे भी नहीं पिघले तो धबराइएगा नहीं। ये वार खाली नहीं जाएंगे। उन साहब को जिस वस्तु में बहुत दिलचस्पी है, बस उसी दिलचस्पी में भाग ले लीजिए।

मेरे एक दोस्त के पिता थे। उन्हें कुछ जरूरी काम कराना था और वे साहब जरा भी रिश्वत, जो आज के समाज जीवन का एक अंग बन गया है, नहीं लेते थे। उन्होंने बहुत कोशिश की पर सफलता नहीं मिली। जब उन्हें पता चला कि उन महाशय को होमियोपैथिक में दिलचस्पी है तब वे उनके यहाँ एक मरीज ले गए। बस उन महाशय ने उन्हें दवा दी। दूसरे दिन वे दूसरा मरीज लेकर पहुँचे और दो दिन बाद पहले आये हुए मरीज का समाचार दे देते। वाह क्या हाथ है! आपके हाथ में जादू समाया हुआ है। जिस बीमारी को डॉक्टर इतने सालों तक कुछ भी कर नहीं पाये। उसे आपने चार दिनों में ही ठीक कर दिया, बस काम बन गया।

ये खुशामद के सिद्धांत तो मैंने उन्हें ही अपना गुरु मानकर लिखे हैं। लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगर मेरे थोड़े से सिद्धांतों से आपको भला हो सके तो क्या हर्ज है। जिससे आपको कम-से-कम मालूम हो जाएगा कि वरदान कैसे पाया जाता है। मंदिर में जाकर देखते हैं तो एक अधपका विचार का व्यक्ति पत्थर की मूर्ति को रंग लपेटकर टूटे-फूटे अक्षरों में मंत्र बोलकर नकली भगवान का असली रूप बनाकर उसको कैसी वंदना करता है। मालूम होता है कि वह पत्थर का नकली

चमेली के फूल

— एस. देवेन्द्र, ८ ए

मेजर होरा, उनकी पत्नी और भाई कर्नल होरा जम्मू से उदमपुर अपनी जीप से जा रहे थे। रास्ते में रामवन जंगल था। जंगल का रास्ता शुरू करने से पहले वे पास के एक गाँव में ठहर गये। रात को जब गाँव से जंगल में निकलने लगे तब उस गाँव के लोगों ने कहा कि रात को जंगल में भूत होते हैं इसलिए अगले दिन चलें। कर्नल होरा ने कहा कि उनका भूतों पर विश्वास नहीं है। यदि वे और देर ठहरेंगे तो उदमपुर देर से पहुँचेंगे।

मेजर होरा और श्रीमति होरा बहुत डरे हुए थे पर फिर भी चल पड़े। रास्ते में उनके जीप का टायर पंचर हो गया। अगला गाँव पच्चीस मील दूर था। वे जंगल में किसी कुटिया की खोज में निकले। उन्हें नदी के किनारे एक पुरानी कुटिया मिली।

वे उस कुटिया के अन्दर गए और सोने की जगह बना ली। बाद में श्रीमति होरा और अपने भाई कर्नल होरा को छोड़कर मेजर होरा जीप से कम्बल लाने गए। वे खुद डरे हुए थे पर उन्होंने भूत का भय छिपाया था।

कुटिया में श्रीमति होरा कर्नल होरा से कह रही थी कि उन्हें गाँव से नहीं निकलना चाहिए था। उन्होंने कर्नल होरा को भूतों की कई घटनाएँ सुनाईं। अब कर्नल होरा भी डर गबे थे। वे चुप बैठे हुए मेजर होरा का इन्तज़ार कर रहे थे। इसी बीच चाँद की रोशनी बादलों के बीच छिप गई।

कुछ देर बाद मेजर होरा कम्बल लेकर लौट आए। उन्होंने अपनी देरी का कारण बताया कि वे किस तरह अन्धेरे में अपना रास्ता खो बैठे। उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि उन्होंने जाते समय कुटिया में एक लालटेन देखा था जिसे जलाने वे जीप से पेट्रोल ले आए थे।

अब वे सोने लगे। कर्नल और मेजर होरा तो सो गए पर श्रीमति होरा डरी हुई थी और उन्हें नींद नहीं आ रही थी। वह पड़े-पड़े ही करवटें बदल रही थीं। वह फिर उठकर खिड़की से बाहर देखने लगी। अब चारों ओर चाँदनी फैली हुई थी।

श्रीमति होरा को ऐसा प्रतीत होने लगा कि थोड़ी ही दूरी पर एक भयानक सफेद घोड़ा उनकी कुटिया की दिशा में आ रहा है। डरकर उन्होंने अपने पति मेजर होरा को जगाया। उन्होंने अपने पति से कहा, 'क्या, यह भूत तो नहीं है?' मेजर ने घोड़ा पहचान लिया और अपने भाई कर्नल को भी उठाया। दोनों भाई छिपकर भूत की दिशा में गए और वे उस घोड़े पर झपटकर उसे पकड़ना चाहते थे। नज़दीक जाकर एक साथ ही वे उस पर झपट पड़े।

'आ: !!!' इस आवाज़ से सारा जंगल गूँज उठा। कर्नल और मेजर कुटिया की ओर दौड़ते हुए आए। श्रीमति होरा ने घबराते हुए पूछा, 'क्या हुआ?' उन्होंने उन्हें बताया कि वह चमेली के फूलों-सा लदा हुआ चमेली का पौधा था।

पिछले पृष्ठ से)

भगवान इस निपुण कलाकार का विचार समझ रहा है और ढोंगी पुजारी को इस खुशामद के बदले में मेवा और पकवान सेठानीजी बड़े प्रेम से खिलाती है। किंतु उनके खुद के स्वामी श्रीमान लक्ष्मीपति सेठजी को ज़बेना ही खाने को मिलता है। बाहर रे खुशामद, तुझे जिसने पाया उसने सारे जगत को पाया। तुमसे दूर रहकर वह सारे संसारे से दूर रहता है। खुशामद आज के युग में एक योग्यता मानी जाती है, अभिशाप नहीं क्योंकि इसके बदले में मेवा और पकवान मिलता है। इसलिए खुशामद गृह है और हम सब चले।

उस दिन मैं पार्टी में न जा सका...

— तरुण गुप्ता, ८ ब

कल शाम को ऑफिस में पता चला था कि आज मेरे दोस्त मोहन का जन्मदिन है। अपने जन्मदिन पर वह एक पार्टी दे रहा था। इसलिए उसने मुझे बुलाया था। मैंने शाम को ही एक अच्छा-सा उपहार खरीद लिया था।

शाम के चार बज रहे थे और बाहर भयंकर वर्षा हो रही थी। “कम्बख्त आज ही इस मनहूस बारिश को बरसना था!” ऊपर से बच्चे भी जान खाए जा रहे थे कि वे भी ‘अंतल ती पार्टी में चलेंदे।’ मेरे लाख मना करने पर भी वे नहीं माने तो मैंने सबको एक-एक थप्पड़ रसीद किया। लेकिन फिर भी मुसीबत छाई है! बस...! फिर क्या, बन गया मेरा घर कबू-तरखाना! उधर बच्चों ने साढ़े दस का सायरन बजाना चालू किया तो इधर हमारी श्रीमतीजी हमको एक-से एक बढ़कर, अपने पंचम सुरों में झिड़कियां देनी लगीं। मैं करता भी क्या, चुपचाप सुनता रहा, जो भी वह बकबक कर रही थी। मेरा सर तो जैसे चकराने लगा। मैंने खिड़की से बाहर झाँककर देखा तो पता चला कि बाहर पास-पड़ोस के लोग हमारे श्रीमतीजी के भाषण में मजा ले रहे थे।

“खैर!” घड़ी ने ज्यों पाँच बजाए, मैं जैसे सपने से जागा। मोहन ने मुझे पाँच ही बजे का टाईम दिया था। जब मैंने बाहर देखा तो बारिश भी थोड़ी थमने लगी थी। मैंने जल्दी से कपड़े पहने और उपहार उठाकर चल दिया। आज मैंने बहुत ही कीमती सूट पहना था। स्कूटर के पास पहुँचकर देखा तो पता चला कि स्कूटर पन्चर पड़ी है। मेरा माथा ठनका और मैंने अपना सर पीट लिया। “हे भगवान, लगता है आज ही तुम को यह मनहूस दिन लाना था। सामने ही बस-

स्टॉप था। मैंने सोचा कि क्यों न बस से चले, बस तो मोहन के घर से थोड़ी ही दूर इकती है, तभी मैंने देखा कि सामने बस आकर रुकी, मैं फौरन भागा लेकिन रुकना पड़ा क्योंकि चारों तरफ कीचड़ ही कीचड़ थी। किसी तरह गिरते-पड़ते वहाँ पहुँचा तो आखरी आदमी चढ़ रहा था। मैंने जैसे ही राँड पकड़ने की कोशिश की तो बस एकदम-से फरटि भरती हुई चल पड़ी। मैं अपना नियंत्रण खो बैठा, धम्म से कीचड़ में जा गिरा। मेरे सूट का तो बिलकुल ही सत्यानाश हो गया था। मेरे उपहार का तो कबाड़ा हो गया था।

उस समय मेरी हालत देखने लायक थी। मेरा पूरा सूट कीचड़ में लथपथ था और मेरा मुँह बन्दर से कम नहीं दीख रहा था, पूरा मुँह कीचड़ से सना हुआ था। रास्ते पर से आने-जाने लोग मेरी हालत पर खिलखिला रहे थे। जब मेरी नज़र ऊपर उठी तो शरम के मारे मेरा मुँह ढक गया क्योंकि ऊपर बिल्डिंगों में छज्जों पर खड़े लोग मेरी हालत पर हँस रहे थे। शायद ही ऐसी हालत में बहुत कम देखने को मिलते हैं। मैंने उठने की कोशिश की, लेकिन ‘उफ!’ शायद कमर में मोच आ गई थी।

तभी कोई जानी पहचानी आवाज़ सुनकर मैं चौंक उठा। पीछे मुड़कर देखा तो मेरे पड़ोसी डिसूझा खड़े मुस्करा रहे थे! मेरे कुछ अजीब-से भाव बनाने पर वे कुछ सँभल गए, शायद उन्हें ज्ञात हो गया था कि उनका मुस्कराना मुझे ठीक नहीं लग रहा था। किसी तरह वे मुझे घर ले गए। उसके बाद घर जाकर डॉक्टर और मेरी श्रीमतीजी ने मेरी जो दुर्दशा बनाई उसका वर्णन करना मेरे लिए दुभर है।

इस तरह मैंने अपने दोस्त की पार्टी बनाई।

विश्रामगृह

— अजीत डोडानी, ८ सी

“अब तक तुमने कुछ नहीं सोचा है न?” भाभीजी दरवाजे तक आती हुई बोली।

“भाभीजी हमने सोचा है कि हम लोनावला जाकर एक दिन बीताकर आएँगे। आज कार में जाकर कल शाम वापस आ जाएँगे।” मैंने कहा।

आज जुम्मा, छुट्टी का दिन। रमेश के घर बैठे (पाँच दोस्त, रमेश और विनोद जिनकी शादी हो चुकी थी और तीन-उनसे दो-तीन साल छोटे थे और कुंवारे थे) ने निश्चय कर लिया था कि दो दिन लोनावला में बीताकर आएँगे। अब सुबह के आठ बज चुके थे।

रमेश और विनोद की पत्नियों ने सारा सामान लेकर कार में रख दिया।

डेढ़ घंटे का सफर बातचीत में गुजर गया। लोनावला पहुँचकर खाना एक होटल में खाया और उसके बाद लोनावला की सैर करने गए।

सात बजे वापस लौटने पर होटल में गए तो सभी जगह पर एक ही जवाब मिलता गया कोई कमरा खाली नहीं, खंडाला जाने पर भी हमें वहाँ उत्तर मिला। लोनावला-खंडाला के बीच में एक बोर्ड दिखाई दिया, ‘विश्रामगृह’, तो हमने सोचा कि रात वहीं बिताएँगे।

गली के अन्दर गए तो एक छोटा-सा घर और एक झोंपड़ी और पास में ही एक कुआँ था। झोंपड़ी में दीया जल रहा था, वहाँ चौकीदार मिला जिसने तीस रुपए लेकर लाँज खोल दिया।

अन्दर गए तो उसने झोंपड़ी से लालटेन लाकर दिया क्योंकि वहाँ पर बिजली का प्रबंध नथा। वहाँ दो कमरे थे जिन्हें दोनों दम्पतियों को दिए गए और हम तीनों ने बाहर सोने का निश्चय किया।

सोते समय ग्यारह बज गए थे मगर मुझे नींद नहीं आ रही थी।

लालटेन की धीमी-सी रोशनी फैल रही थी कि अचानक किसी के चलने की आवाज आई। सतीश और रमेश सोए हुए थे तो विनोद या रमेश होगा आवाज किसी चमड़े की चप्पल की थी। मैंने तिरछी नज़रों से घूरकर देखा—कोई न था।

अब थोड़ा-सा डर महसूस हुआ, आवाज नज़दीक से आ रही थी मगर कोई दिखाई नहीं दे रहा था। आवाज मेरे यहाँ से गुज़री और दरवाजे की ओर धीमी-धीमी होते गई, फिर रुक गई, अभी भी कोई न था—दरवाजा खुला था और फिर चप्पल की आवाज और फिर दरवाजा बंद हुआ।

घबराहट बढ़ गई और हृदय की धड़कन बढ़ने लगी। सतीश को जगाया और कहा, तो वह बोला, “सो जा .. भाई...सो जा, तंग क्यों करते हो।” और वह आराम से सो गया।

अब नींद कैसे आती? चादर से बाहर निकलने की हिम्मत नहीं होती थी। अचानक खिड़की की ओर से आवाज आई, वहाँ देखा तो खिड़की खुल गई थी और वहाँ से आवाजें आ रही थीं।

इस बार सबने सुन लिया था। रमेश और विनोद अपनी पत्नियों के साथ बाहर आ गए। विनोद खिड़की तक भागा तब सिर्फ कुआँ दिखाई दिया और कुछ नहीं था।

विनोद ने कहा, “यह क्या था?”

किसी के पास कोई जवाब नहीं था। मैंने अपनी कहानी सुनाई। उसे सुनकर सब गंभीर हो गए।

अब सब सोफा पर बैठे थे। दोनों भाभियाँ डर के मारे अपने पति के कंधों पर सो रही थीं।

लालटेन की बत्ती और बड़ा दी गई। सब चुपचाप थे। कोई भी बातें नहीं कर रहा था कि छत से किसी के चलने की आवाज फिर से सुनाई दी, इस बार कोई किसी भारी चीज़ को घसीट रहा था, फिर एक चीख सुनाई दी—मगर इस बार भी कोई नहीं था। घड़ी में देखा, अब सुबह के चार बज चुके थे। सोचा अब चौकीदार से पूछकर आएँगे कि इसका कारण क्या है।

बाहर झोंपड़ी की ओर गए मगर वहाँ कोई नहीं था। आवाज दी फिर भी कोई जवाब नहीं मिला। कुछ

मिनट हमने चौकीदार की झोंपड़ी में बिताए क्योंकि किसी की हिम्मत नहीं थी कि लॉज में फिर से जाएँ। सुबह के साढ़े पाँच बजे बाहर निकले, कार में बैठे और विनोद ने कार शुरू की और पीछे घुमा रहा था और उसने कार के सामनेवाले दीए जलाए। तब सतीश चिल्लाया, “रुको।”

हम सबने लॉज की ओर देखा मगर देखते-देखते अवाक रह गए। अपनी आँखों पर विश्वास नहीं कर सकते थे कि यह क्या है। वह लॉज अब छोटा-छोटा होता दिखाई दे रहा था। अब तो वह वहाँ पर था या नहीं इस भरम में थे। झोंपड़ी लॉज कुछ नहीं था सिर्फ टूटी हुई दीवाल थी। विनोद ने जल्दी से कार मोड़ दी और मेन रोड पर निकल गया।

छः बज चुके थे। लोनावले की चाय की दूकान पर चाय पी। यहाँ पर कई आदमियों को इस घटना के बारे में बताया मगर किसी ने भी न यह लॉज देखा था या न ऐसा कुछ किस्सा सुना था।

वापस हम उसी जगह से गुजरे तो वहाँ एक बूढ़ा आदमी उस गली के सामने बैठा था।

रमेश ने कहा—“चलो, इसे पूछ लें।”

रमेश की पत्नी—“नहीं-नहीं घर चलो। मुझे यहाँ नहीं रहना है।”

विनोद ने कार रोक दी और हम सब उसकी ओर गए। उसे अपनी कहानी सुनाई। उसने कहा—“पाँच साल पहले उस जगह पर एक अमीर आदमी रहता था। उसका नाम मोतीलाल था। बहुत ही पियक्कड़ था। उसकी पत्नी मर चुकी थी। उसके एक पुत्र था। एक

रात मोतीलाल और पुत्र के बीच पैसों को लेकर झगड़ा हुआ। मोतीलाल ने अपने पुत्र को जब वह सोया हुआ था मार दिया। उसने पुत्र को दफनाने के बदले कुएँ में ही उसकी लाश फेंक दी। किसी को भी इसका पता न लगा। मोतीलाल का भी वही हाल हुआ जो अन्य पियक्कड़ों का होता है। वह कंगाल बना और विवश होकर उसे अपनी जमीन बेच देनी पड़ी। उसी जगह पर मोतीलाल के पुत्र की आत्मा वहाँ घूमती-फिरती है। वहाँ पर कई विश्रामगृह बने, मगर आधे बन चुकने पर टूट गए। आपसे इसलिए गलती हुई क्योंकि इमारत बनते समय जो बोंड लगाया गया था वह वहाँ से अब भी नहीं निकाला गया है। वह चुप हो गया।

उसके साथ हम भी चुप हो गए। तब रमेश ने पूछा, “वह चौकीदार कौन था?”

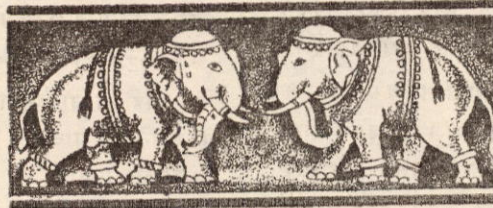
उस बूढ़े ने कहा, “वह चौकीदार नहीं, मोतीलाल के पुत्र का भूत था।”

हम सब चौंक पड़े और चुप रहे।

तब मैंने कहा, “भाईसाहब, हमने सबसे पूछा मगर किसी ने भी कोई जवाब नहीं दिया। आपको यह कैसे पता? आपका नाम क्या है?”

कुछ देर वह चुप रहा और बाद में धीरे से कहा, “मेरा नाम जानना चाहते हो न!!! मेरा नाम मोतीलाल है!!!!

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अजायबघर में एक घंटा

— सायरस बेंकर, ८ सी

पिछले वर्ष मैं मेरे माता-पिता के साथ बंबई गया था। हम बंबई के जूहू बीच अक्वेरियम, चौपाटी आदि देख चुके थे। हमें अभी सिर्फ अजायबघर ही देखना बाकी था। हमने अपने होटल से टैक्सी पकड़ी और बंबई के प्रसिद्ध अजायबघर देखने निकल पड़े। अजायबघर से ज्ञान ही नहीं मनोरंजन भी होता है।

अजायबघर सचमुच अजायबघर ही था। कितना विशाल और भव्य। वहाँ अलग-अलग विभागों में और कक्षाओं में भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार की वस्तुएँ सजाकर रखी हुई थीं। सभी वस्तुओं पर लेबल चिपकाए गए थे। उन लेबलों पर वस्तुओं के बारे में महत्त्वपूर्ण जानकारी संक्षेप में दी गई थी। तरह-तरह के पत्थरों पर खुदी हुई देवी-देवताओं की असंख्य मूर्तियाँ थीं। वहाँ विष्णु और भगवान बुद्ध की कई मूर्तियाँ थीं। तांडवनृत्य करते हुए शंकर भगवान की मूर्ति की सुन्दरता का वर्णन ही नहीं किया जाता। वहाँ और भी भगवानों की मूर्तियाँ देखने लायक हैं। इन मूर्तियों से हमें भारत के प्राचीन कलाओं की जानकारी प्राप्त होती है।

वर्तनों के विभाग में विविध धातुओं के बने बर्तन थे। वर्तनों पर की गई कारीगरी बहुत ही अद्भुत है। शस्त्रों के विभाग में प्रवेश करते ही उत्साह और आश्चर्य हुआ। प्राचीन काल के तीर, बाण, तलवार, तोप आदि शस्त्र दिखाई देते थे। साथ ही साथ आधुनिक शस्त्र भी थे। पशु-पक्षियों के विभाग देखते ही

आँखें तृप्त हो गईं। यहाँ के जैर, चित्ते, भेड़िये जैसे भयानक प्राणियों के शव इस प्रकार रखे थे कि इन्हें देखकर मैं अनुमान ही न कर सका कि वे मरे हुए हैं। पंछियों के मृत शरीर अच्छे ढंग से सँवरकर रखे गए थे। छोटी-छोटी चिड़ियों से लेकर बड़े-बड़े बाज और चील जैसे पक्षियों के शरीर ऐसे लग रहे थे मानो जीवित हों।

पुराने वस्त्र का विभाग बड़ा ही सुन्दर था। उन वस्त्रों में भारतीय वेशभूषा बड़े ही मोहक रूप से सजाई हुई थी। वहाँ प्राचीन काल के लड़ाई के वस्त्र और राजा-रानी के वस्त्र भी थे। सिक्के के विभाग में भारतीय और विदेशी सिक्के थे। कहाँ आज के कागज का नोट तथा सिक्के और कहाँ प्राचीन काल के शुद्ध सोने और चाँदी के सिक्के। उन विभागों के अलावा चित्र विभाग तथा अन्य विभाग भी बड़े दर्शनीय थे। चित्र के विभाग में काफी बड़े और छोटे चित्र थे। सब एक आदमी का ही इकठ्ठा किया गया था। चित्र इतने सुन्दर थे जैसे अभी भी उसमें जान हो! हमने जो कुछ भी देखा उसमें नई और पुरानी बातों की जानकारी प्राप्त हुई और मनोरंजन भी।

इनके द्वारा हमारे ऐतिहासिक ज्ञान का विकास होता है। इसलिए अजायबघरों की रक्षा और सहायता करना प्रत्येक नागरिक का कर्तव्य है।

एक गाड़ी अनाज की कीमत

एक किसान था जो मेहनत-मजदूरी कर जो कुछ मिलता उसपर संतोष मान लेता था और बड़ी प्रसन्नता से अपना जीवन व्यतीत करता था। इस साल के मौसम में उसे अधिक अनाज की प्राप्ति हुई इसलिए वह एक गाड़ी अनाज लेकर शहर के बाजार आया। दिनभर रुकने पर भी उसका सौदा नहीं बन पाया। आज किसी ने भी उसका अनाज नहीं खरीदा। दिन ढल चुका था।

उस शहर में रहनेवाला साहूकार बड़ा ही चालाक तथा चतुर था। वह किसान के पास आया और उसने गाड़ीभर अनाज की कीमत पूछ ली। किसान ने सी रुपए बतलाई। साहूकार ने सी रुपए निकालकर दिए और कहा, गाड़ी उसके घर के अहाते में छोड़ आए। किसान साहूकार के यहाँ पहुँचा और अनाज देने लगा। तब साहूकार ने कहा कि “मैंने जो रुपए दिए हैं वे बैल-गाड़ी तथा अनाज के सहित हैं। सौदा करते समय गाड़ीभर अनाज का सौदा किया था।” दोनों में झगडा हुआ, वे गाँव के कोतवाल के पास पहुँचे। कोतवाल ने साहूकार के पक्ष में फैसला सुनाया। बेचारा किसान अपना-सा मुँह लेकर घर पहुँचा। घर पर सारी बात का पता चलने पर पत्नी तथा बच्चों को भी बुरा लगा। रात में किसान ने एक युक्ति सोच ली। दिन निकलते

ही वह तोते का पिंजड़ा लेकर साहूकार के घर पहुँचा। उसने साहूकार से प्रार्थना की कि उसके घर अनाज का एक भी दाना न होने के कारण वे इस तोते को खरीद लें। साहूकार ने तोते की कीमत पूछ ली। किसान ने कहा कि सिर्फ एक पंसेरी ज्वार दें।

आज साहूकार के घर उसके पत्नी का जन्मदिन था। वह बत-ठनकर घर में घूम रही थी। बहुत सारे अलंकार तथा गहने उसने पहने थे। साहूकार की पत्नी ने सोचा कि एक पंसेरी ज्वार वह स्वयं अपने हाथों से दें तो उसे दान का पुण्य प्राप्त होगा। वह एक पंसेरी ज्वार दान करने आई। आते ही किसान ने उसे अपने कंधों पर उठा लिया और साहूकार से बोला—“जैसे अनाज के साथ बैल गाड़ी तुम्हारी बनी वैसे ही ज्वार के साथ तुम्हारी पत्नी मेरी हो चुकी है।” साहूकार ने काफी प्रतिकार किया। मगर किसान ने उसकी एक न सुनी। अंत में दोनों फिर से कोतवाल के पास पहुँचे। कोतवाल ने बताया कि साहूकार की पत्नी पर किसान का अधिकार है।

साहूकार की आँखें खुल गईं। उसने किसान के पैर पकड़ लिए और किसान के बैल-गाड़ी तथा तोते को लौटा दिया। किसान ने भी उसके पत्नी को लौटा दिया। किसान बड़ा खुश होकर अपने घर लौट आया।



अगर मैं....!

—पवनद्वीप सिंग चड्ढा, ७ सी

आदमी कितना कुछ बन सकता है। अगर मैं फुट-बाल बनूंगा तो मुझे सबसे ठोकरें खानी पड़ेंगी। अगर मैं पेड़ बनूंगा तो मुझे कभी न कभी कुल्हाड़ी से काटकर खाना पकाने के लिए जलाया जाएगा। अगर ईश्वर मुझे चुनने का मौका देंगे तो मैं अपने मन से पूछूंगा। हाँ! मैं विमान बनूंगा! मुझे विमान बनने की बहुत कामना है। मुझे हवा में घूमने का बहुत शौक है। मुझे कारखाने में बनाया जाएगा। मुझे बनाने के लिए बहुत पैसों और औजारों की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी। अब मैं एक सुन्दर वायु-यान बन गया था।

जब मैं पूरी तरह तैयार हो गया तो मुझे टेस्ट किया गया। फिर मैं बहुत-सी सवारियाँ लेकर नीले बादलों को चीरता हुआ गया। सारी जगह पवन ही पवन था। मैं नीले गगन की ओर बढ़ा। वायु में घूमने में बेहद आनंद आता है। जब भी मैं बहुत ऊपर बादलों में चला जाता हूँ तो नीचे का नजारा बहुत ही दिलचस्प प्रतीत होता है। ऊपर से घर मानिस के डिब्बों जैसे छोटे लगते हैं और जीवजन्तु तो चींटियों जैसे। जब मैं धरती के निकट आ जाता हूँ तो सब वस्तुएँ बड़ी होने लगती हैं। जो भी हवाई जहाज में सफर करता है वह शीघ्र और आराम से सफर कर सकता है। हम ऊँची उड़ान लेकर तेज रफतार से चलते हैं।

आजकल विज्ञान में बहुत उन्नति हो रही है और हम में बहुत सुधार हो रहे हैं। जो पाइलेट हमको चलाते हैं, उनको एक सख्त ट्रेनिंग प्राप्त करनी पड़ती है, फिर ही यह हमें चलाने योग्य होते हैं और इनको बहुत सावधान और होशियार रहने पड़ता है क्योंकि हवाई जहाज चलाना कोई हँसी-खेल नहीं। मैं हररोज देश-विदेश घूमता हूँ। वहाँ के निवासी भी देखता हूँ, वह कैसे वस्त्र पहनते और वह कौन-सी बोली बोलते हैं। मुझे हर देश की विभिन्न भाषा और विविध पहनावा का भी ज्ञान हुआ। मैं नदियों, झीलों और पहाड़ों के ऊपर से जाता हूँ। जब मैं पहाड़ों की चोटियों के ऊपर से जाता हूँ तो ऐसा लगता है कि मानो मैं सारी दुनिया के ऊपर हूँ और दुनिया मेरे पाँव के नीचे है। यह भाव मुझे बहुत प्रफुल्लित करता है।

कभी-कभी मेरे मित्रों की दुर्घटना सुनकर मेरे भी रोंगटे खड़े हो जाते हैं। इतनी ऊँचाई और इतनी गति से जब विमान गिरता है तो उसके टुकड़े-टुकड़े हो जाते हैं और उसमें बैठे लोग भी ईश्वर को प्यारे हो जाते हैं। मरना तो सबको है। पता नहीं, उनके मन में क्या बीतती होगी। सब भय मीत लगते हैं। मैं मीत से नीडर हूँ, इसलिए मैं विमान बनना चाहता हूँ।



बस-यात्रा का अनुभव

— नीरज धींगरा, 4 सी

बसस्टॉप पर बस का इन्तज़ार करते-करते जब बहुत देर हो गई तो मैं और मेरी कक्षा के अन्य विद्यार्थी परेशान होने लगे, क्योंकि आज से हमारे विद्यालय की द्वितीय-सत्र की परीक्षाएँ प्रारंभ होनेवाली थीं। समय बीतता जा रहा था, हमें नौ बजे के पहले ही स्कूल पहुँचना था। सहसा एक बस आकर स्टॉप पर रुकी। सब लोग उस पर ऐसे टूट पड़े जैसे चनों को देखकर बन्दर उस पर टूट पड़ते हैं। मैं भी उनमें से एक था। मैंने दूसरों को ढकेलते हुए किसी तरह भीतर घुस पड़ा और बैठने की जगह तलाश करने लगा। बस ठसाठस भरी थी, बैठने को रत्तीभर भी जगह नहीं थी। इसी समय अपने ही स्कूल का एक छोटा लड़का दिखाई दिया। मैं उसके पास गया और उसे इशारे से उठने के लिए कहा। उसने थोड़ी-सी आना-कानी की, पर जब मैंने इसे धूरकर देखा तो डरकर वह अपने स्थान से उठ बैठा और इस तरह से मैंने बस में बैठने की जगह प्राप्त की। मेरे दोस्तों ने भी सीटों के लिए कोशिश की, पर उन्हें सफलता नहीं मिली। उन्होंने मेरे भाग्य को सराहा। मैं मन ही मन अपनी सफलता पर फूला नहीं समा रहा था।

बस अपनी तेज़ चाल से चली जा रही थी और मैं अपने मित्रों के साथ गप्पे हाँकने में डूबा हुआ था। अचानक बस चलते-चलते रुक गई। सब बच्चे चिल्लाने लगे, बाहर झाँककर देखा तो एक कुत्ता भी हमें देखकर चिल्ला रहा था। उसको देखकर जब हम हँसने लगे तो वह चूप हो गया लेकिन उसकी जीभ कभी मुँह से बाहर और कभी अन्दर आ-जा रही थी। हमको लगा जैसे वह हमें चिढ़ा रहा हो। हममें से कुछ नीचे उतरे

और पत्थर से मारकर उसे भगा दिया। इधर हम कुत्ते के पीछे पड़े हुए थे, उधर बस-चालक ने बस को आगे बढ़ाने की कितनी ही कोशिश की, पर कामयाब नहीं रहा। कुछ देर बाद उसने बस के फेल होने की बात कह दी। अब हमारी परेशानी बढ़ गई, पर करें तो क्या करें। विवश अपने भाग्य को कोसने लगे।

कुछ देर बाद एक बस आई। हम उसमें चढ़कर बैठ गए। अभी अपने स्थान से बस आगे बढ़ी थी कि उसे फिर रुक जाना पड़ा क्योंकि बस के नीचे एक सूअर आ गया था। सब नीचे आए तो देखा कि एक सूअर डर के मारे बस के नीचे तक कोने में डुबकी मारे बैठा था। किसी तरह से उसे वहाँ से निकाला गया। बस आगे बढ़ी।

बस ने अब कहीं स्टॉप नहीं लिया। वह तेज़ी के साथ आगे बढ़ी जा रही थी। सहसा तेज़ और शीतल हवा का झोंका बस के भीतर आया। मैंने बाहर झाँककर देखा—चारों तरफ दूर-दूर तक हरियाली छाई हुई थी, पक्षियों का समूह आकाश में उड़ रहा था और दूर से एक रेलवे पुल से गुज़रती हुई रेलगाड़ी की आवाज़ मेरे हृदय को बरबस अपनी ओर खींचे लिए जा रही थी। अचानक मुझे अपने स्कूल की इमारत दिखलाई पड़ी। मेरे चेहरे पर हँसी खेलने लगी। मैं संभलकर बैठ गया। बस स्कूल के पास जाकर रुकी। मैंने और मेरे साथियों ने अपने-अपने बस्तों को हाथ में लिया और बस से नीचे कूद पड़े। अब कुछ और सोचने-समझने का अवसर नहीं था, इसलिए तुरन्त हमने अपनी कक्षा की राह ली।

मेरे जीवन की सबसे हसनि

पद-यात्रा

— एम. यादव, ७ सी

मैं, पिताजी, माँ और राहुल भैया सब तैयार हो गये थे। हमारी आज से पाँच दिन की पदयात्रा शुरू होनेवाली थी। हम मसूरी से चक्राता पैदल चल के जानेवाले थे।

सबसे पहले दिन हमें मसूरी से जमुना पुल जाना था। हमने हमारे पीठ पर सामान बाँध दिए और चौसठ मील का रास्ता काटने को तैयार हो गए। बस क्या कहूँ कि वह दृश्य कितना सुंदर लग रहा था। चारों ओर पहाड़ी, दूर से हिमालया की बर्फीली चोटियाँ नजर आ रही थीं। हम पहाड़ों के बीच जंगल में से फटड़ी पर चल रहे थे। सब ओर का वातावरण हराभरा और पक्षियों की आवाज़ से गुँज रहा था।

हम सुबह पाँच बजे निकले और नाश्ता किया। दो बजे हमने परोठा और आचार खाया। अब धीरे थकान महसूस होने लगी, धमसि में से चाय पी ली। जब हम जमुनापुल पहुँचे तो थककर चूर हो गए थे। वहाँ पर एक छोटी-सी दुकान थी इसमें हमने चावल और दाल बना दिया। जीवन में पहली बार इतनी जोर से भूख लगी थी। रात को सोने को एक कमरा मिल गया। हम पढ़ते ही सो गए। दूसरे दिन जल्दी उठना था। जमुना नदी बहुत ही सुंदर लग रही थी। उसके पुल पर हमारी एक तसवीर खिंची। दूसरे दिन सुबह छः बजे निकल पड़े। अब हमें लकवा पहुँचना था। जमुना पुल से तीन हजार फुट की ऊँचाई पर पहुँचना था। अब तो पैर बहुत ही दुख रहे थे, पहले दिन की थकान दूर नहीं हुई थी। पर जब कुदरत की सुंदरता देखते थे तो सब भूल जाते थे। एक बार पापा का पैर

फिसला और वे दस फीट नीचे जाकर गिरे। पर भगवान की दया से उनको चोट नहीं आयी। एक बार राहुल भैया भी नीचे गिरे और उनका पाँव मोच खा गया। सब जगह पर जोंक थे जो पैर पर चिपक जाते थे।

लकवाड़े में खाना खाकर हम धर्मशाला में रहे। वहाँ एक आदमी ने हमें रोटी और दाल बनाकर दी। वह पैसे लेने को तैयार नहीं था।

तीसरे दिन हमें नागघाट पहुँचना था। पापा के पैरों में मोच आ गयी थी। चलते-चलते पानी और खाना दोनों खत्म हो गए थे। फिर हमने झरने का पानी पिया। जब नागघाट पहुँचे तो पता चला कि हमारा रेस्ट हाऊस का बुकिंग नहीं हुआ था। बस, हमने एक पेड़ के नीचे दरी डाल दी। किसी एक आदमी ने हमें एक रात के लिए कमरा दिया।

चौथे दिन चोरानी हम बड़ी आसानी से पहुँचे। अब हम आठ हजार फीट ऊँचाई पर थे और बादलों के बीच चल रहे थे। सुबह उबले अंडे और चाय मिली। फिर कोई दुकान या होटल नहीं था। चोरानी में रेस्ट हाऊस मिला। बहुत दिन के बाद सबको चैन से सोने को मिला।

पाँचवें दिन हम चक्राता के लिए चले। अब हमारी मंजिल दूर नहीं थी पर हम चलते ही जा रहे थे। पर चक्राता का कहीं नामोनिशान नहीं था। शाम के छः बजे गए तब शहर नज़र आया। हमारी कमनसीबी से रेस्ट हाऊस में हमारी चिट्ठी नहीं मिली यह कहकर मना कर दिया। अब कहाँ जाएँ? सबसे पहले जोर की भूख लग रही थी क्यों कि सुबह से ब्रेड और कॉफी ही पी थी। होटल में जाकर हमने जिस तरह से खाना कि होटलवाले देखते ही रह गए।

आखिर पापा ने रहने का इंतजाम कर दिया। दूसरे दिन हम बससे निकल पड़े। यह दिन मैं कभी भी नहीं भूलूँगा।

मुझे नौकरी नहीं चाहिए

एक निर्धन विधवा अपने इकलौते पुत्र का मेहनत-मजदूरी कर पालन करती थी। उसे जो कुछ मिलता था उससे वे दोनों अपना पेट तक नहीं पाल सकते थे। एक बार बालक ने अपनी माँ से पूछा—‘क्या मैं तुम्हारी सहायता कर सकता हूँ? तब माँ ने कहा—‘तुझसे नौकरी कैसे हो सकती है?’ तब पुत्र ने कहा—‘माँ नौकरी क्या होती है? माँ बोली—‘बेटा! मालिक की आज्ञा का पालन करना। उसकी जय जयकार करना यही प्रामाणिकता—नौकरी है।’

अपनी माँ का उपदेश सुनकर वह नौकरी के लिए निकल पड़ा। रास्ते में उसे कुछ शिकारी मिले। उन्होंने बालक को नौकरी पर रख लिया। शिकारियों को मार्ग में शिकार दिखाई दी। शिकार के पास आते ही बालक ने अपने मालिक की जय-जयकार करना प्रारंभ किया। तब शिकार भाग निकली। शिकारियों ने गुस्से में आकर उस लड़के को भगा दिया। उन्होंने उससे कहा—‘ऐसे वक्त चीखा-चिल्लाया नहीं जाता। दबे पाँव चारों-ओर देखकर चलना चाहिए। बेचारा बालक आगे निकला।

नदी तटपर एक घोबी कपड़े धो रहा था। पिछले कुछ दिनों से उसके कपड़े चुराए जा रहे थे। आज वह रखवाली कर रहा था। इस बालक को चुचाप दबे पाँव आते देख उसे लगा यही चोर होगा। उसने उसकी पीटाई कर दी। अपनी भूल को जब घोबी समझ गया तब उसने कहा—‘बेटा, ऐसे चुपचाप नहीं जाना चाहिए। ऐसा कहते जाओ कि और अच्छी धुलाई करो, पीटाई करो याने कपड़े साफ-सुथरे होते हैं। बालक आगे निकला।

किसान अपने खेतों में अनाज बो रहा था। वह खेतों में रके बैलों को डंडे से पीट रहा था। तब

बालक बोला—‘वाह! और पीटो, बहुत अच्छा होगा। किसान को गुस्सा आया। उसने बैलों के बजाय बालक की पीटाई की। किसान की समझ में उसकी भूल आ गई तब वह बोला—‘बेट्स, ऐसा न कहो। बोलो, हँसते-हँसते ले जाना चाहिए। ऐसा ही होना चाहिए। बालक चुपचाप आगे निकला।

रास्ते में उसे कुछ लोक अर्थी ले जाते दिखाई दिए। उसमें मृतक के रिश्तेदार बड़े दुःखी होकर चल रहे थे। तब बालक बोला—‘यह क्या बात है। इसे तो हँसते खेलते ले जाना चाहिए। ऐसा ही होना चाहिए। बालक की बात सुनकर लोगों ने उसके कान खींच लिए और कहा—‘ऐसा प्रसंग अपने शत्रु पर भी न आए ऐसा कहना चाहिए। बेचारा बालक चुपचाप आगे बढ़ा।

सामने से शादी की बारात आ रही थी बालक सड़क के बीचोबीच खड़ा होकर चिल्लाया। बोला—‘ऐसा प्रसंग अपने शत्रु पर भी न आए।’ तब बाराती लोगों में से कुछ लोगों ने उसे पकड़कर बुरी तरह से पीटा और कहा—‘मूर्ख। ऐसा नहीं कहते। हमेशा बोलो कि ऐसे सुखद प्रसंग हमेशा आते रहें और लोगों को सुख मिले। बालक आगे बढ़ा।

पुलिस के सिपाही एक कैदी को बेडियाँ पहनाए ले जा रहे थे। तब बालक बोला, ‘वाह! ऐसे सुखद प्रसंग हमेशा आते रहे। यहाँ पर पुलिसों ने उसके कान खींच लिए। तब बालक ने कहा—‘लोग मुझे जैसा बताते गए वैसा ही मैं बताव करता गया। फिर भी वे मुझपर ही गुस्सा करते रहें और पीटते रहें। तो फिर मुझे नौकरी भी नहीं चाहिए। उससे मैं भूखा ही रहना पसंद करूँगा।

स्कूल का पहला दिन

— सुनील सरन, ७ सी

जब मैं चार वर्ष का था तो मुझे दूसरे बच्चों की तरह शहर के एक अच्छे स्कूल में डाला गया। उसका नाम था 'विश्व स्कूल'। यह स्कूल केवल लड़कों के लिए था।

जब मैं छोटा था तो मैं अपनी माँ से ज़िद किया करता था कि वह मुझे स्कूल भेजें। वह कहती थी कि जब मैं चार साल का हो जाऊँगा तब स्कूल जा सकूँगा। मेरे भाई-बहन दोनों स्कूल जाते थे और उन्हें देखकर मेरा और मन करता था, परंतु जब यह महान दिन आया तो मुझे ज़रा-सा डर लगने लगा।

मेरे स्कूल के कपड़े पहले से ही तैयार थे। जब मैंने उन्हें पहना तो मुझे बहुत घमंड हुआ। मैं अपना बस्ता और किताबों को लेकर अपनी माँ के साथ स्कूल चला गया। स्कूल ८-४० पर प्रारंभ होता था। हम वहाँ ८-१५ पर पहुँच गए। 'विश्व' में एक जूनियर स्कूल है जो 'के जी' कक्षा से 'चौथी' कक्षा तक है। आज तो बहुत शोरगुल हो रहा था क्योंकि बच्चे नई नई कक्षाओं में जा रहे थे।

जूनियर स्कूल की मुख्य अध्यापिका मिसिज़ रोबर्ट्स हमसे बड़े प्यार से बोलीं और उन्होंने मेरी होनेवाली कक्षा अध्यापिका से हमें मिलवाया। फिर मेरी माँ चली गई। मैं रोने लगा, परंतु मेरी अध्यापिका ने मुझे समझाया कि रोना नहीं चाहिए। अंतमें मैं चुप हो गया।

मेरी कक्षा का नाम था 'के जी सी'। जब मैं अंदर गया तो बच्चे मेरे बारे में बात करने लगे। मगर अधिकतर बच्चे नये थे और इसी कारण मुझे इतना अजीब न लगा जितना मैं सोच रहा था। अब एक घंटी

बजी और हम बाहर जाकर एक लाईन में खड़े हो गए, जब हमने प्रार्थना खत्म की तो अपनी कक्षा में वापस लौट आए।

मेरी अध्यापिका ने मुझे एक सीट दे दी। हमें पहले हमारी अध्यापिका ने कहानियाँ सुनाईं। इसके बाद गणित पढ़ाया। पहले मुझे डर था कि मुझे नहीं आएगा परंतु एक बार मैं उसे समझ गया तो वह बहुत आसान लगा। हिंदी पढ़ाने के लिए एक नई अध्यापिका आईं। हमें अक्षर दिखाकर वह चली गईं। मैंने उन्हें पहले से ही याद कर लिए थे।

अब हमारी आधी छुट्टी हो गई। हम बाहर निकलकर झूलों में झूलने लगे। फिर मैंने एक आईसक्रीम खाई। मैंने एक दोस्त भी बना लिया था। उसका नाम था रमेश। वह अभी भी मेरे साथ पढ़ता है। एक बार तो झूला इतना ऊपर चला गया कि मैं काँपने लगा। कक्षा को जाने का समय हो गया था तो हम वापस चले गए।

हमारी कक्षा अध्यापिका ने हमको चित्र बनाने के लिए दिए। मेरा चित्र बहुत सुन्दर था तो उन्होंने मुझे शाबाशी दी। अंग्रेजी पढ़ाने का समय हो गया था। हमने अक्षर लिखे और उनको पढ़ने लगे। इसके बाद हमारी अध्यापिका हमें मैदान में ले गईं। वहाँ हमने पकड़न-पकड़ाई खेली।

जब कक्षा पहुँचे तो हमने घर का काम लिखा। अध्यापिका को दिखाकर हम घर चले गए। मेरा नौकर मुझे घर ले गया। मुझे वह दिन बहुत अच्छा लगा था और मैं उस दिन को कभी न भूलूँगा क्योंकि कि मेरी स्कूल जाने की जो मनोकामना थी, आज वह पूरी हो गई थी।

तैरने की कला

देवाशिव दास- ७ सी

तैरना एक अच्छा अभ्यास है। कितना मजा आता है- पानी में डूबकर तैरने में।

यह कला बहुत ही स्वास्थ्यदायक है। तैरने से हमारे शरीर के सब अंगों को व्यायाम मिलता है, इसीलिए डॉक्टर कहते हैं कि तैरना सबसे अच्छे प्रकार का व्यायाम है। अनेक पशु, जैसे कुत्ते, गाय, भैंस आदि इस कला को जानते हैं। बड़ा शरीरवाला हाथी भी इस कला को जानता है। यह सब पशु अपने जन्म से तैरना जानते हैं। कोई उन्हें तैरने नहीं सिखाता है, लेकिन मनुष्य अपने आप तैरना नहीं जानता है। उसे तैरने को सिखाना पड़ता है। कम आयु के लड़के लड़कियाँ यह कला बहुत ही जल्दी सीख जाती हैं।

ऐसे अनेक लोग हैं जो तैरना नहीं जानते हैं क्योंकि उनको इस कला को सिखने का मौका ही नहीं मिला हो या ऐसे अनेक लोग हैं जो मौका मिलने पर भी इस कला को सिखने से इन्कार कर देते हैं। वे इस कला को सिखने की आवश्यकता और महत्त्व नहीं समझते हैं। वे तर्क करते हैं कि नौ सेना के अनेक नाविक भी तैरना नहीं जानते हैं। लेकिन यह तर्क कोई अच्छा तर्क नहीं है। हम लोगों को इस चीज को सीखना चाहिए जो अच्छा और लाभदायक हो। दूसरों को देखकर अगर हम कोई अच्छी चीज न सीखें तो यह मूर्खता होगी।

तैरना सचमुच ही एक लाभदायक चीज है। यह हमारे फेंफड़ों को मजबूत बनाता है और हमारा शरीर स्वस्थ रहता है और हम तंदुरुस्त रहते हैं।

तैरना एक अच्छा खेल है और यह कला बहुत मनोरंजक भी है। हजारों वर्षों से बच्चे और बूढ़े तैरने का आनंद लेते आए हैं। जब बच्चे एक साथ तैरते हैं तो कई बच्चे दूसरे बच्चों से भी तेज तैरने की चेष्टा करते हैं। आजकल तैरने की प्रतियोगिता भी होती है।

पानी में बहुत ही खतरा है। नदी या समुद्र में डूबकर अनेक लोगों की जान चली गई है। अगर हम तैरना जानते हैं तो अगर कोई दुर्घटना हो पानी में तो हम अपने आपको निश्चित मृत्यु से बचा सकते हैं। अगर कोई आदमी नदी के तट से चला आ रहा हो और वह पैर फिसलकर गिर जाए तो वह तैरकर अपनी जान बचा सकता है। यह प्रमाणित करता है कि लोगों का कहना ठीक है कि तैरना बहुत ही लाभदायक कला है। इसीलिए तैरना सिखना बहुत ही आवश्यक है।

तैरना जानने से हम दूसरों की जान भी बचा सकते हैं। दूसरों की जान बचाने के लिए अनेक लोगों को पुरस्कार भी मिले हैं। अगर हम तैरना नहीं जानते तो हम अपने सबसे अच्छे दोस्त को पानी में डूबने से नहीं बचा सकते। यह सोचने से दिल में कितना दुख पहुँचता है। यह दुख अनुमान से परा है। इसलिए तैरने को सिखना बहुत ही जरूरी है।

आतंक की छाया में

ए. अब्कालकोटकर- ७ ओ. आर.

स्कायलैब गिरने का संभव है यह समाचार सुनकर लोगों के दिल में एक उत्सुकता पैदा हो गयी थी। हररोज अखबार लेकर बैठते कि भारत में कहीं गिरनेवाला है। घर-घर में यही चर्चा होती कि स्कायलैब उनके देश में न गिरे। रात के ग्यारह-बारह बजे तक लोग रेडियो लगाते ताकि उन्हें स्कायलैब के बारे में कोई महत्वपूर्ण खबर मिले। स्कूलों में भी शिक्षकों और विद्यार्थियों में यही चर्चा होती कि स्कायलैब कहीं गिरेगा। स्कूलों के मुख्याध्यापक यही सोचते कि उनके स्कूल पर यह संकट न आए।

भारत के लोग अमरिकावालों को कोस रहे थे क्योंकि उन्होंने स्कायलैब को सब १९७३ में आकाश में छोड़ा था उसका वजन कई टन था और वह ग्यास से भरा हुआ था लेकिन उसका ग्यास जल्दी खत्म होने से वह पृथ्वी पर जल्दी प्रवेश करनेवाला था और उसके अंदर जो ग्यास था वह भारत में आकर खत्म होनेवाला था और वह भारत के किसी भाग में गिरनेवाला था और वह छोटे अंगारों के गोलों में गिरनेवाला था और वह जहाँ गिरनेवाला था उस जगह पर आग लगनेवाली थी। अमरिका की सरकार ने कहा था कि देश में जितनी हानि होनेवाली थी वह उतने नुकसान की कीमत चुकानेवाले थे और जिस परिवार में जितने लोग स्कायलैब गिरने से मर गये थे वह उनके परिवार को पैसे देनेवाले थे लेकिन पैसे क्या जान की कीमत से बढ़कर है।

हर देश में हलचल-सी मच गयी थी। हर देश की सरकार हर किस्म का आयोजन कर रही थी, जिस

दिन स्कायलैब गिरनेवाला था उस दिन हर देश में पोलिस और फायर ब्रिगेड का पहरा होनेवाला था और जिस जगह पर गिरनेवाला था उस जगह फायर ब्रिगेड घण्टी बजाती हुई जानेवाली थी ताकि लोग होशियार हो जाए, उन्हें पता चल जाए कि किस इलाके में गिरने वाला है। जिस दिन गिरनेवाला था उस दिन हवाई-जहाज, रॉकेट जितनी आकाश में उड़ने वाली वस्तुएँ थीं और दुकानें, कारखाने, स्कूल, फैक्ट्री सब कुछ बन्द होनेवाली थी। हर घर में यही प्रार्थना हो रही थी कि उनका परिवार बच जाए।

आखिर वह दिन आया जिस दिन स्कायलैब गिरनेवाला था और वह एक कयामत की रात थी जिस दिन की तारीख थी ग्यारह जुलाई। स्कायलैब रात के दस और ग्यारह के दरमियान गिरनेवाला था। उस दिन लोग सोए नहीं घर के खिड़की, दरवाजे बन्द कर के बैठ गये और टी-वी और रेडियो चालु कर के बैठे कि उन्हें कोई स्कायलैब के बारे में कोई महत्वपूर्ण खबर मिले। कई घरों में प्रार्थना हो रही थी तभी उन्हें एक आनन्द की खबर मिली कि स्कायलैब हिन्द महासागर में गिरा। लोगों ने चैन की साँस ली और आराम से सो गये। दूसरे दिन सब लोग घर से बाहर निकले और इस आनन्द की खबर एक दूसरे को सुनाने लगे और भगवान को धन्यवाद देने लगे और दूसरे दिन कई लोगों ने गरीबों को मिठाइयाँ बाँटी और खुशियाँ मनाने लगे कि उनका परिवार बच गया और उन्हें कोई हानि न हुई।

फुटपाथ की दुनिया

— ए. मेहता, ७ ब

इस वर्ष की नाताल की छुट्टियों में अपने चाचा के घर गया था। उनका घर थोड़ा पुराना है लेकिन बहुत बीच मोहल्ले में है। उसका नाम है कालबादेवी। कालबादेवी बंबई का हृदय माना जाता है। जहाँ पर दिनभर लाखों लोग आते-जाते हैं। कोई मंदिर में जाता है, तो कोई दूकान में जाता है। कोई फूल लेता है तो कोई सब्जी लेता है। एक ही दिन में लाखों रुपयों का व्यापार होता है। लेकिन मुझे उससे कोई वास्ता नहीं है। मैं तो रात-दिन उस फुटपाथ को ही देखता हूँ।

बंबई की फुटपाथ देखने में मुझे बहुत दिलचस्पी है। जहाँ गरीबी सोई हुई दिखाई देती है। दिन में जहाँ पर मोटरों की कतार लगती है वहाँ रात में दो-चार बच्चे लिए हुए कोई स्त्री सोती है। कोई सूखा ब्रेड खाता है। कोई बिना खाए ही पानी पीकर सोता है। कहीं सोने के लिए झगड़ा भी चलता है। फिर सब मिल-जुलकर सो जाते हैं। सुबह होते ही वहाँ सब बेचनेवाले फेरीवाले अपने संदूकें लेकर आ जाते हैं। कोई कंचा बेचता है तो कोई स्टील के बर्तन बेचता है। इतने में कोई नीले ड्रेसवाला पुलिस दिखाई देता है तो सब इधर-उधर भाग जाते हैं।

एक दिन रात में मैं भी गंदे कपड़े पहनकर इधर-उधर घूमने लगा। उन लोगों ने मुझे भी अपना जैसा मान लिया। एक लड़के ने कहा, मेरे साथ सो जा। तुम्हें इधर जगह नहीं मिलेगी। उन लोगों की जिदगी ही कुछ न्यारी है। पैसा आते ही वे पिकचर देखते हैं या शराब पीते हैं। रात में एकदम शांति फैली हुई होती है। सब अपनी-अपनी शतरंजी बिछाते हैं और

सो जाते हैं। सुबह होते ही सब भाग जाते हैं। कहाँ जाते हैं वह पता नहीं चलता। सब कोई पैसे के लिए काम खोजने चले जाते हैं।

कोई भीख माँगता है तो कोई मजदूरी करता है। कोई नौकर बनता है तो कोई हाथगाड़ी चलाता है। लेखक और कवि लोग जो गरीबी पर बड़ी-बड़ी अच्छी दास्तान लिखते हैं। वह अपने घर में बैठकर लिखते हैं। शायद उन्हें सच का पता नहीं। मैं तो रोज़ यह देख-देखकर ऊब गया हूँ। फुटपाथ यह स्थिति का कोई उद्धार करेगा या नहीं? कभी उन लोगों को घर मिलेगा या नहीं? उनके बच्चे पढ़ सकेंगे या नहीं? मेरे जैसे लड़के पानी पीकर सो जाते हैं और बैठे-बैठे फुटपाथ से दुनिया देखते हैं। जो बच्चे दिल में कई आशाएँ छुपाए बैठे हैं। उन बच्चों को भी घर चाहिए, रोटी चाहिए, कपड़े चाहिए, फुटपाथ की दुनिया से छुटकारा चाहिए। लेकिन यदि बंबई की यह फुटपाथ न होती तो उसकी दुनिया का क्या हाल होता!



एक भिखारी की आत्मकथा

— सुन्नातो पंत, ८ ए

कलकत्ता के बड़े शहर में बहुत लोग रहते हैं। कुछ अमीर होते हैं तो कुछ गरीब। यह कहना सही है कि इस शहर में अमीरों से ज्यादा गरीब लोग रहते हैं। मैं भी इसी शहर में रहता हूँ। आप लोगों ने मुझे सड़क के किनारे 'फुटपाथ' पर बैठे हुए भीख मांगते देखा होगा। मन में बहुत से विचार आए होंगे। सोचा होगा कि कुछ काम नहीं करता हूँ बस भीख मांगता हूँ आप में से ज्यादातर लोगों ने ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया होगा। सिर्फ एक भिखारी को भीख मांगते हुए देखा होगा और शायद आपको घृणा आई होगी। सोचा होगा, इन लोगों को मार क्यों नहीं देते। भगते क्यों नहीं है? मगर इसके अलावा आपने किया क्या है? सिर्फ एक-दो ही तो पैसे फेंके हैं। कभी हमारी मदद करने की कोशिश की है क्या? हम आपसे मदद चाहते हैं, असली मदद एक-दो पैसे के सिक्के नहीं।

जब मैं छोटा था तो बच्चों को स्कूल जाते देखता था। सोचता था कि मैं भी इनके जैसे स्कूल जाऊँ और कुछ विद्या हासिल करूँ। परन्तु मेरा दुनिया में कोई नहीं था जो मुझे स्कूल भेजे। न मेरे पास पैसे थे स्कूल में पढ़ने के लिए। मैं स्कूल के अन्दर जाता तो चौकोदार मुझे बाहर निकाल देता। कहता—तू गरीब है, अमीरों के स्कूल में पढ़ेगा? कभी-कभी मैं विद्यार्थियों की बातें सुनकर सोचता कि इनको पता नहीं है कि ये कितने भाग्यशाली हैं।

मेरा जन्म कलकत्ते के एक बस्ती में हुआ था। जन्म से ही मेरा बाया पांव टेढ़ा था। मुझे देखकर मेरी माँ दुःखी हो गई। लोगों ने उन्हें मुझे अनाथ आश्रम के द्वार पर छोड़ देने को कहा। कुछ ने तो मुझे नदी में डुबाने के लिए कहा। परन्तु चाहे सन्तान कितनी

बदसूरत होती है, माँ के दिल में उसके लिए ममता होती है। उन्होंने मुझे फेंकने की जगह बहुत प्यार से पाला-पोसा। वह मेरी हर तरह से सेवा करती रहीं।

जब मैं दो साल का था तो मेरे पिताजी मर गए। मेरी माँ ने हिम्मत नहीं हारी और वह मजदूरी करने लगी। जब मैं पाँच साल का था तो मेरी माँ मर गई। मेरा दुनिया में कोई नहीं रहा। दूसरे रिश्तेदार एक लंगड़े लडके को नहीं सम्भलना चाहते थे। उन्होंने मुझे कुछ दिनों रखा, फिर मुझे बाहर निकाल दिया। दुनिया में मेरा कोई नहीं था। मैं कई दिनों तक भूखा प्यासा घूमता रहा, कभी कोई आदमी पत्तल में कुछ खा कर पत्तल फेंकता तो पत्तल को चाट डालता। कभी किसी दयालू आदमी मुझे कुछ पैसे दे देता। मैं अब फुटपाथ पर सोता। फुटपाथ ही मेरा घर था। यहाँ मैं दिन भर बैठता। मेरी और भिखारियों के साथ मित्रता हो गई। जब मैं और बड़ा हुआ तो शहर में इधर उधर जाता रहता। कभी कई कई दिन तो मैं भूखा रहता। पर अब मैं इस जिन्दगी की आदत डाल चुका था। अभी मैं घूमता रहता।

आप लोग मुझे अभी भी देखते हैं। अगर दया आती है तो एक दो पैसे डाल देते हैं, नहीं तो चले जाते हैं। और मैं अभी भी वही हूँ—एक भिखारी!

“यदि तुम किसी क्षुधा से पीड़ित श्वान को उठो लो और उसे देखभाल से खुश करो, तो वह तुम्हें कदापि न काटेगा। मानव और श्वान में यही अंतर है।

— मार्क ट्वेन

जो इन्सान अपना गुप्त-भेद सेवकों पर प्रकट करता है, वह उनको अपना स्वामी बना देता है।

— ड्राइडन

भाग्यवान माता

— प्रयाग एम. गवांदि, ८ व

एक छोटा गाँव था। वह गाँव बहुत छोटा था। उस गाँव में करीब २५ या ३० घर थे। गाँव में पानी के लिए एक कुआँ था। वह कुआँ गाँव के थोड़ी दूरी पर था। गाँव की सभी स्त्रियाँ उसी कुएँ पर पानी भरने तथा बरतन और कपड़े धोने के लिए आती थीं।

कुआँ गाँव के बाहर होने के कारण जबकि औरतें पानी भरने जातीं तो ३ या ४ मिलकर जातीं। अकेली स्त्री कभी नहीं जाती थी। आते-जाते और कुएँ पर पानी भरते, बर्तन माँजते वे आपस में हमेशा अपने घर, बच्चों या पति के बारे में बातचीत करतीं।

एक बार इसी तरह चार औरतें कुएँ पर पानी भरने आयी थीं। वे आपस में बातें कर रही थीं।

एक स्त्री ने कहा, “मेरा लडका गायक है। उसकी आवाज बहुत मीठी है। वह भजन बहुत अच्छा गाता है। मंदिरों से उसे बुलावा भी आता है।

दूसरी स्त्री ने कहा, ‘मेरा बेटा तो बहुत बड़ा पंडित है। गीता तो उसने पाठ कर ली है। उसका पांडित्य देखकर सभी अचरजमें पड़ते हैं।

तीसरी औरत ने कहा, “मेरा पहलवान है। हर रोज १००० जोर निकालता है। सैकड़ों कुश्तियाँ जीती है।’

चौथी औरत चुपचाप इन तीनों औरतों की बातें सुन रही थीं। उसने अपने बेटे के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा, अंत में उस स्त्री ने कहा, “मेरा लडका एक सीधा साधा लडका है। वह हमेशा दूसरों की सहायता करता है। बहुत दयालु है।” तीनों स्त्री ने मुँह टेढ़ाकर लिया

कुएँ के पास एक पिपल का बड़ा पेड़ था। उसके नीचे एक यात्री बैठा था। वह अह सब सुन रहा था।

औरतों ने पानी भरा था। वे अब घर जाने वाली थीं। इतने में पहली स्त्री का बेटा गाना गाते आ रहा था। वह अपनी माँ का ओर देखकर हँसा और चला गया। उसके बाद आया दूसरी स्त्री का पंडित। वह भी अपनी माँ के ओर देखकर हँसा और चला गया। पंडित के पीछे आ रहा था पहलवान। बड़े दंड, भरी हुआ गर्दन वह भी हँसकर चला गया। अंत में वह दयालु लडका आया। उसने देखा कि माँ का पानी भरना हो गया है। वह माँ के पास आया और उसे बर्तन उठाने की मदद करने लगा।

पिपल के नीचे यात्री बैठा था, उसने सोचा कि यह सच्चा बैठा और उसकी माँ भाग्यशाली है।

‘तुम्हारी पत्नी धरलू काम-काज के लिए कितने नौकर रखती है।’ एक मित्र ने पूछा।

मुझे छोड़कर दो नौकर।’ धीरे-से दूसरे ने बताया।

मालिक ने नौकर को डाँट लगाई कि कोई भी काम करने से पहले कम से कम मुझसे तो पूछ लिया करो।

थोड़ी देर बाद नौकर आया और बोला—‘मालिक मैंने खिड़की में से देखा कि रसोई में बिल्ली दूध पी रही है। अगर आप कहें तो उसे भगा दूँ।

पनघट पर पैर फिसल जाने के कारण सरपंच की पत्नी का ऊपरी होंठ फट गया। डॉक्टर आया और उसने टाँके लगा दिए।

सरपंच साहब पूरी देर डॉक्टर साहब को देखते रहे, और जब जाने को हुआ तो फीस देते हुए धीरे से बोले—‘डॉक्टर साहब, दोनों होंठों को सीने का कितना लगता है।

एन. डी. ए. भ्रमण

पवनदीप चड्ढा

जब हम पूना में नये-नये आये थे तो बहुत लोगों ने हमें एन. डी. ए. देखने को मुझाया। उन्होंने इस स्थान को बहुत बहुत प्रशंसा की। इतनी प्रशंसा सुनकर हमारा मन भी इस जगह को देखने को ललचा उठा। मैंने अपने पिताजी से अनुरोध किया कि हमें एन. डी. ए. का भ्रमण करवाएँ। उन्होंने कहा कि वे एक ना एक दिन एन. डी. ए. का नजारा दिखाने हमें अवश्य ले जाएँगे। कई दिन बीत गए। हम अधीर होने लगे। आखिर वह घड़ी समीप आ गई। एक रात्रि को मैंने सुना कि मेरे माता-पिता हमें एन. डी. ए. घुमाने का निश्चय कर रहे थे। मेरे खुशी का ठिकाना न था। मैं प्रसन्नता से नाच उठा। हमें दूसरे दिन प्रातःकाल के समय पूना शहर छोड़ना था। वहाँ जाता इसलिए कठिन है क्योंकि वह पूना से पच्चीस-तीस किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। मैं सुबह होने ही प्रतीक्षा करने लगा। हर घड़ी घंटों के समान प्रतीत होती थी। सारी रात मुझे इस सुंदर स्थान के मनमोहक सपने आए।

दूसरे दिन सुबह-सुबह हम एन. डी. ए. का ओर रवाना हुए। 'राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी' को सक्षिप्त में 'एन. डी. ए.' पुकारते हैं। यह एक लंबा रास्ता है, पर वहाँ पहाड़ियों, घाटियों और खेतों की सुन्दरता देखकर मैं बड़ा प्रसन्न था। यह हरियाली और प्रकृति का नजारा सचमुच बेहद दिलचस्प लगता था।

थोड़ी देर के रास्ते के बाद चढ़ाई आनी शुरू हुई। हमारी गाड़ी जब चढ़ाई पर चल रही थी तो आगे प्रकृति की शोभा के अतिरिक्त कुछ नहीं दीख रहा था पर जब हम चढ़ाई के शिखर पर पहुँचे तो पूरा अकादमी का दृश्य हमारे सामने खुल गया, यह बहुत ही

आश्चर्यजनक बात है। नीचे एक घाटी में यह शहर बसा हुआ था। एक क्षण के लिए तो मैंने सोचा था कि मेरे अपने लोचन मुझे धोखा दे रहे थे। कुछ क्षणों बाद हम इस रक्षा अकादमी में घूम रहे थे। जो छात्र यहाँ शिक्षा प्राप्त करते हैं उन्हें 'कैंडेट' कहते हैं। 'सुदान दालान' नामक हमने एक बहुत विशाल दालान देखा। यहाँ सब राष्ट्रीय बैठकें होती हैं।

यह दालान बड़ा आलीशान बना है। यह पूरा कीमती संगमरमर का बना हुआ है। इसके ऊपर एक बड़ा चबूतरा है। इस दालान में कुल चार करोड़ रुपए खर्च हुए थे। इसके बाहर एक बहुत सुन्दर बगीचा है जिसके बीच में हमने दो विमान खड़े देखे। वहाँ एक बड़ा मैदान जहाँ प्रतियोगिताएँ और खेलकूद होता है। इसका नाम है 'खेतरपाल परेड ग्राउंड' खेतरपाल एक ऐसा अफसर था जो अपने देश के लिए लड़ते-लड़ते शहीद हो गया था। उसकी स्मृति में इस मैदान का नाम रखा गया है। भारतमाता उसपर गर्व करती है। यहाँ ऐसे बहुत से मैदान हैं जहाँ कैंडेटों को खेल-कूद में शिक्षा दी जाती है। यहाँ एक तैरने के लिए खूबसूरत तालाब भी है। यहाँ कैंडेट तैरने की उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। यह अकादमी एक बहुत विशाल जगह है।

यह कहा जा सकता है कि यह अपने आपसे एक छोटा-सा शहर है क्योंकि इसके अंदर बाजार, स्कूल, हॉटल जैसी चीजें उपस्थित हैं। कैंडेटों के रहने को जगह भी है। कैंडेट सब मिलकर एक साथ भोजन खाते हैं। रसोईघर की तो बात ही क्या !! यहाँ बहुत आधुनिक चीजों की सहायता से भोजन तैयार किया

जाता है। रसोईघर बहुत ही साफ रखा जाता है। दो सौ से अधिक खानसामा खाना बनाते हैं।

इस रक्षा अकादमी में कैंडेटों को समझदार, होनहार और अकलमंद अफसर बनाने के लिए शिक्षा दी जाती है। इसके पश्चात वह अपनी रुचि के अनुसार जल, अल या वायु सेनाओं में चले जाते हैं। कैंडेटों के पढ़ने के लिए बड़े-बड़े बिद्यालय हैं। पर इन्सान कितना काम कर सकता है? उसे मनोरंजन की भी आवश्यकता पड़ती है इसलिए इस अकादमी में एक सिनेमा हॉल भी है। इससे उनकी अपनी पढ़ाई में भी रुचि बनी रहती है। 'सुदान हॉल' से तकरीबन दो मील दूर 'पिकॉक बै' नामक एक स्थान है जहाँ जल सेना को ट्रेनिंग दी जाती है। इसके निकट एक बड़ी झील है

जहाँ हमने एक नाव में सैर की। जो कैंडेट सबसे होनहार होते हैं, उन्हें स्वर्ण, रजत और कास्य पदक प्रदान किये जाते हैं। इसके बाद हम घर वापिस लौट आए।

अकादमी को देखकर और उसके कार्यक्रम को सुनकर मैं बड़ा होनेके बाद अकादमी में भरती होने को प्रोत्साहित हो गया, मैं भी बड़ा होकर एक कैंडेट बनूँगा और वह कड़ी शिक्षा प्राप्त करके अपने देश की सेवा करूँगा यही मेरे जीवन की महत्त्वाकांक्षा है। जो पूना आकर एन. डी. ए. को न देखे तो ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि उसका भ्रमण अधूरा रह गया हों। यह राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी पूना के दर्शनीय स्थानों में से सबसे प्रमुख है।

निर्लज्ज हारकर भी नहीं हारता, मरकर भी नहीं मरता।

जयशंकर प्रसाद

गाँव से आए नौकर को सामान्य शिष्टाचार का पहला सबक पढ़ाते हुए साहब ने कहा, देखो जब भी किसीका नाम लो, उसके बाद 'जी' अवश्य लगाया करो।

थोड़ी देर बाद नौकर दौड़ता हुआ आया और बोला साहबजी अपने कुत्तेजी ने पडोसी जी के मुर्गोंजी को पकड़ लिया है.....।

बालक:— लालाजा चार अण्डे दीजिए।

लालाजी:— क्या तूने मुझे मुर्गी समझ लिया है?

लड़का:— (अपने साथियों से) मेरे पिताजी बहुत बड़े आदमी हैं। बहुत सारे लोग उनके सामने सिर झुकाते हैं।

साथी:— वह क्या काम करते हैं?

लड़का:— नाई काम।

एक प्रोफेसर इतिहास पर बड़ा बोरिंग लेक्चर शोडे जा रहे थे। वर्ग में आखिरी बेंच पर सोए हुए एक विद्यार्थी को उठाकर उन्होंने पूछा, "तुम कबसे सो रहे हो?"

'सत्रहवीं शताब्दी से' नींद में ही उस विद्यार्थी ने जवाब दिया।

किसी महिला के आठ बच्चे थे। जब भी कोई बच्चा किसी वजह से रोता तो वह उससे मनाते हुए कहती, "देखो बेटे। गलती करके रोते नहीं।" एक दिन बच्चों की शरारत से तंग आकर वह रोने लगी और कहने लगी, "ऐसे बच्चों से तो बगैर बच्चों के अच्छे थे।"

तब उनकी छोटी पुत्री उन्हें मनाते हुए बोली, "देखो मम्मी, गलती कल के रोते नहीं।"

जिन्हें कहीं से प्रशंसा नहीं मिलती वे आत्म प्रशंसा करते हैं।

—अज्ञात

आगरा की ऐतिहासिक इमारतें

— संजीव शर्मा, ७ सी

भारत के ऐतिहासिक नगरों में आगरा नामक नगर का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रहा है। आगरा तथा दिल्ली शुरू से ही मुगल बादशाहों के प्रिय स्थान रहे हैं। इसी कारण मुगल बादशाहों ने इन दोनों नगरों में विश्व प्रसिद्ध इमारतें बनवाईं। अब मैं आपको इन इमारतों के बारे में कुछ बताऊँगा। जैसे आपको पता है। आगरा शहर यमुना नदी के बायें किनारे बसा हुआ है। आगरा में तीन बहुत पुरानी इमारतें हैं जो शहेनशाह अकबर से संबंधित हैं। फतेहपुर सीकरी जो आगरा नगर से करीब १८ किलोमीटर दूर है। बादशाह अकबर ने अपने गुरु शेर शलीम चिश्ती की यादगार में बनवाई थी, क्योंकि उनके आशिर्वाद से अकबर पुत्र हुआ था। इस इमारत के भीतर जाने से पहले, भारत का सबसे ऊँचा, माना हुआ दरवाजा जिसका नाम बुलन्द दरवाजा आता है। इस दरवाजे पर चढ़कर कुछ लड़के लोगों से तीन रुपये माँगते हैं और दरवाजेके दाईं ओर जो कुआँ है उसमें छलांग लगाते हैं। अंदर जाने पर संगमरमर की दरगाह और मस्जिद दिखाई देते हैं। इस इमारत में रानी जोधाबाई, शहेनशाह अकबर की सुन्दर बेगम का रसोईघर है। यह रसोईघर देखने लायक है। यहाँ पर ही पानी वितरण के नये तौर तरिके इस्तेमाल किए गए थे, जो उस समय के लिए नयी सूझ-बूझ थी। चिश्ती साहब की दरगाह संगमरमर तथा गुजरात से मंगाए पत्थरों से बड़ी सुंदर बनाई गयी है। इसकी खिड़कियों में जो संगमरमर तथा जालियों में जो सीपियों का काम पाया जाता है। वह देखने लायक है। यहाँ पर यात्री लोग पूजा के धागे बांधकर मन्त्र मनाते हैं। इस इमारत के फर्श

पर दरगाह के बगल में कई कई मरहूम आदमियों की कब्रें पायी जाती हैं। दूसरी इमारत जिसका अकबर से संबंध है वह है सिकंदा। शहेनशाह अकबर की मृत्यु आगरे में हुई पर उनके मरहूम शरीर को संक्रा नामक मकबरे में दफनाया गया। यह मकबरा भी अतिव सुन्दर और देखने लायक है। यहाँ पर चिन से मँगाये गये गुलाबों का भी बाग है। तीसरी इमारत जिसका संबंध अकबर से है वह है आगरे का लाल किला। यह किला बादशाह अकबर ने बनवाना शुरू किया पर काम के बीच में ही उनकी मृत्यु हो गयी। इस किले का अधूरा काम बादशाह अकबर के पुत्र जहाँगीर ने पूरा किया। इस किले में और ताजमहल में सिर्फ एक नदी का फर्क है। अंदर जाने पर मोती मस्जिद, शीश महल और अंगूर का बाग देखने लायक हैं। राजा और रानी का शतरंज घर भी एक देखने लायक रमणीय स्थान है। जब औरंगजेब ने शाहजहाँ के किले में बंदी बना रखा तब शाहजहाँ के कैदखाने में एक ऐसा शीशा लगा था जिसमें ताजमहल का प्रतिबिंब दीखता है। नदी के दूसरी पार ऐत्माह-ऊद-दौलाहर्जा का मकबरा, चीनी का रोजा तथा आराम बाग रमणीय स्थान हैं। आराम बाग हुआऊँ ने बनवाया था, चीनी का राजा में चीन से आये हुए कारीगरों ने बनाया। जो काँच का काम इनमें पाया जाता है वह देखने लायक है। अब बात रही ताजमहल की, जिसको बीबी का रोजा भी कहते हैं शाहजहाँ ने अपनी प्यारी बेगम मुमताज की यादगार में बनवाया। बाद में दोनों मकबरे बने

अगर मैं प्रधानमंत्री होता....

-संजीव चड्ढा, ७ सी

अगर मैं प्रधानमंत्री होता तो मैं उस स्वप्न को पूरा करता जो भारत के भूतकाल के प्रधानमंत्री (एक या दो को छोड़कर) पूरा न कर पाए हैं।

सबसे पहले मैं अपने राष्ट्र को एक स्थिर सरकार देता। जिस तरह से तत्कालीन राजनैतिक घटनाएँ घट रही हैं उस प्रकार मैं कदापि घाटित न होने देता।

तत्कालीन राजनैतिक खोखले ढाँचे से देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्र— अर्थ, यातायात, औद्योगिक इ. उन्नति के बजाय अवनति की ओर अग्रसर हैं। इस अवनति को रोकने की मैं यथा शक्ति से प्रयत्न करूँगा व उसे विरुद्ध दिशा (उन्नति) में गति दूँगा।

तत्कालीन राजनीति में जो अवसरवादी अपने स्वार्थ का उल्लू सीधा कर रहे हैं उन्हें मैं अच्छे रास्ते पर लाऊँगा ताकि देश का भविष्य उज्ज्वल हो सके व एक अच्छी सरकार का प्रारंभ हो। उन नेताओं को अपने मंत्री दल में कदापि न रहने दूँगा जो कोरा यथार्थवाद व आदर्शवाद का प्रदर्शन करते हैं। ऐसे लोगों को अगर ढील दी गई तो देश की प्रगति को एक गहरा आघात लग सकता है जैसा दिखाई दे रहा है। इससे देश की अंदरकी व बाहरी हालत व स्थिति अस्थिर हो सकेगी। देश की औद्योगिक प्रगति की ओर

मैं ज्यादा ध्यान दूँगा क्योंकि इसी प्रगति से दूसरे देश हमारी प्रगति का अनुमान लगाते हैं। इससे देशका आयात कम होगा व निर्यात ज्यादा होगी। देश की सीमा-रक्षा के लिए जो साधन लगते हैं उनके बनाने-वाले गॅरिसन फॅक्टरी को ज्यादा प्रोत्साहन देना पड़ेगा जिससे देश सीमांत मामलों में सबल हो सके। देश में हो रहे दंगों-फसादों को कम करूँगा। अब आया अंदरुस्ती व्यवस्था का सवाल तो यह स्वयं ही खत्म हो जाएगी अगर देश को एक स्थिर सरकार मिल जाए व देश के लोग संतुष्ट हो जाएँ।

गांधीजी ने कहा था कि देश का विकास उसके ग्रामों के विकास पर अवलंबित रहता है। सो, उनके आदर्शवाद को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं ग्रामीण विकास की ओर अपना ध्यान अग्रसर करूँगा जिससे देश का विकास होने में देर न लगेगी।

यह सब करने से देश में खुशहाली फैलेगी व देश अवनति के पथ के बजाय उन्नति के पथ पर अग्रसर हो जाएगा।

उफ! यह सब तो उस समय होगा जब मैं प्रधान-मंत्री (?) बनूँगा! अभी-अभी तो सिर्फ योजनाएँ, सिर्फ...

मानव का सर्वोत्तम मित्र उसको दस ऊँगलियाँ हैं।

रॉबर्ट कोलियर

मनुष्य बूढ़ा हो जाता है मगर लोभ बूढ़ा नहीं होत।

सुदर्शन

वक्त को नष्ट न करो क्यों कि जीवन इसीसे बना है।

फ्रैंकलिन

'आत्मविश्वास सरीखा दूसरा मित्र नहीं। आत्म-विश्वास ही भावी उन्नति की सोढी है।'

स्वामी विवेकानंद

मान गुण से मिलता है, जैसे ताते को सब पालते हैं परंतु कौए को कोई नहीं।

—अज्ञात

काश्मिर में माउंटैनियरींग

आप सबको पता है कि काश्मिर में माउंटैनियरींग का बहुत शौक है। माउंटैनियरींग का दूसरा भाग है 'ट्रेकिंग'। माउंटैनियरींग में मनुष्य या बालक दल बनाकर ऊँचे-ऊँचे पहाड़ चढ़ते हैं। काश्मिर में बालकों तथा बालिकाओं के दल हर साल काश्मिर आते हैं। यह दल ऊँचे-ऊँचे पहाड़ों पर चढ़ते हैं। काश्मिर में आनेवाले दलों के साथ एक गाईड तथा एक-दो आदमी होते हैं। ये आदमी बालकों को नयी चीजें बताते हैं, जैसे नदी कैसे पार करते हैं। चढ़ते कैसे हैं, उतरते कैसे हैं, बड़े-बड़े पत्थरों पर चढ़ते कैसे हैं और बहुत सारी बातें। मैं अब आपको एक दल जिसमें मैं भी था, उसके बारे में बता रहा हूँ। इस दल में सात लड़कियाँ और दस लड़के थे मुझे मिलाकर। उन्होंने मतलब हमें ले जाने वाले हर बालक से साढ़े तीन सौ रुपये लिए। हमारा दल दिल्ली से सुबह जम्मू-तावी एक्सप्रेस से जम्मू रवाना हुआ। हम लोग जम्मू में एक दिन रुके, फिर अगले दिन हवाई जहाज से काश्मिर पहुँचे। काश्मिर एक ऐसी घाटी है जो चारों तरफ से बर्फाले पहाड़ों से घिरी हुई है। हम लोग काश्मिर में गुलमर्ग में ठहरे थे। हम सुबह छः बजे उठे कई तो उठ नहीं रहे थे, ठंड के कारण। किसे भी, स्नान करने की हिम्मत नहीं हुई। हम सबने मुँह धोया और मिर 'स्नो सूट' पहना। फिर सबने एक-एक डंडा

लिया। एक वायर-लैस और एक दूरबिन ले ली। वायरलैस का यह फायदा है, अगर कोई बर्फ में फँस जाये, तो वह गाईड या अपने मित्रों को संकेत कर सकता है, और उसके मित्र उसकी सहायता के लिए आ सकते हैं। हम लोग एक दिन में छः सात किलोमीटर चढ़ते थे-, कभी कम या कभी ज्यादा। अगर कहीं बर्फ पिघल गयी हो तो हम वहाँ पर अपना डेरा डालते थे। रात को आग के चारों तरफ बैठकर हम गप्पे, गाने तथा चूटकुले सुनाते। हम लोग गुलमर्ग से करीब दस हजार फीट ऊपर चढ़ते हैं। जब हम वहाँ पहुँच जाते हैं तो एक झंडा या कोई निशानी छोड़ आते हैं बीच में कई बार नदियाँ आती हैं, हम इन नदियों को गाईड की सहायता से या दूसरे आदमियों की सहायता से नदी पार करते हैं, कई बार बड़े-बड़े पत्थर भी चढ़े। इसे कहते हैं 'ट्रेकिंग'। फिर धीरे-धीरे नीचे उतर जाते हैं। बीच में कई बार हमने दूरबिन से हिमालय के कुछ ऊँचे-ऊँचे पहाड़ देखे। हम लोग गुलमर्ग में दो दिन और ठहरे। मेरा मन फिर से ऊपर जाने को कर रहा था, पर मैं मजबूर था। हम लोग फिर दिल्ली वापस पहुँच गये। गाईड ने कहा था अगर अगले साल किसी को आना हो तो जरूर आये। मैं अगले साल माउंटैनियरींग करने जरूर जाऊँगा। यह मैंने ठान ली है।

'सुख और आनंद ऐसे इत्र हैं जिन्हें जितना ज्यादा छिड़कोगे उतनाही ज्यादा सुगंधी आपके अंदर समाएगी।

— एमर्सन

'भूल करने में पाप तो है ही, परंतु उसे छिपाने में सबसे बड़ा पाप है।'

— महात्मा गांधीजी

'गरदने बेतमा वलंद बुबद।'

निर्लोभी का सिर सदैव ऊँचा रहता है।

— शेख-सादी

संशय बड़े घातक है। ये हमारी उत्पादन शक्ति को नष्ट कर देते हैं—हमारी अभिलाषा को वंगु और शक्ति-हीन बना देते हैं।

— स्वेट मार्टन

चिंताओं से भरा जीवन

चेतन शेट्टी, १० ब

किसी महापुरुष ने चिन्ता और चिंता के संबंध में कहा है — 'चिन्ता मृतक को जलाती है और चिंता जिंदा व्यक्तिको जलाती है।' इस कहावत में गहरी सच्चाई है। चिन्ता एक भयानक जन्तु है जो हर एक व्यक्तिको काट कर रहता है। हर एक मानव के भाग्य में लिखा है कि उसे चिन्ता तो सताते रहती ही है फर्क इतना ही है कि वह कम अधिक मात्रा में होती है। लेकिन कोई भी व्यक्ति ऐसा नहीं मिलेगा जो चिन्ता से मुक्त हो। चिन्ता हर एक के जीवन में उपस्थित है। चाहे वह छोटा हो, बड़ा हो, अमीर हो या गरीब। मगर चिन्ता को कम करने के भी तरीके हैं।

हम किसी व्यापारी की स्थिति को देखें। शुरू में जब वह व्यापार का श्रीगणेश करता है तब उसे चिन्ता होती है कि क्या वह व्यापार में सफल होगा या नहीं? क्या उसके प्रतिद्वंद्वी उससे आगे निकलकर चले जाएंगे। उसे हमेशा यही चिन्ता लगी रहती है और बेचारा अपना मनोरंजन तक नहीं कर सकता। लेकिन अगर उसका व्यापार ठीक तरह से चलने लगे तो फिर वह अपने परिवारको अच्छी तरह से खुश रख सकता है। यहाँ

तक आने पर उसने अपने आप पर रोक लगानी चाहिए और संतोष मान लेना चाहिए तभी वह सुखी हो सकता है। वह और भी लोभ करता गया तो चिन्ता उसकी और भी पीछा करते जाएगी।

छोटे बच्चों को भी तो चिन्ता लगी रहती है। क्या परीक्षा में हम सफल होंगे या नहीं? इस चिन्ता से तो वे इतना उदास हो जाते हैं कि किसी चीज का भी वे आनंद नहीं लूटा सकते। इस चिन्ता से मुक्त होने का एकमात्र इलाज है आत्मविश्वास। इसकी बहुत ही जरूरत है। हर एक व्यक्ति कोशिश करते रहें— अपने जीवन से चिन्ता को दूर करने का प्रयत्न करें ताकि उसे आनंद लेने का मौका मिले।

चिन्ता से मुक्ति पाने के लिए कई लोग योगा-भ्यास का प्रयोग करते हैं। साधु-मुनियों के आश्रम जाकर इसके मूक्ति की खोज करते हैं। लेकिन हमेशा के लिए चिन्तासे मुक्त रहने का उपाय है अपने आप पर और भगवान पर विश्वास रखना। जो भी कार्य करें पूरी ताकद से करें और बाकी दैवी शक्ति पर छोड़ दें। कहते हैं न 'कोशिश करनेवालों की हार नहीं होती।'

पापी पेट, तू सब कुछ कर सकता है। मान और अभिमान, र्लानि और लज्जा ये सब चमकते हुए तारे तेरी काली घटाओं की ओट में छिप जाते हैं।

— प्रेमचंद

यदि शत्रु हमारे समक्ष झुके तो उसकी नम्रता में भूल न जाओ, गाफिल न हो। कमान जितनी टेढ़ी झुकती है उतनी ही वह अपने काम में कारगर होती है।

— अज्ञात

'जो मनुष्य दिन-दहाड़े कपूर की बत्ती जलाता है एक दिन ऐसा आएगा कि उसको रात्रि को जलाने के लिए तेल भी न मिलेगा। उसकी फिजुलखर्ची एक दिन विषम फल लाएगी हो।

—सादी

आचरण एक शीशे के समान है जिसमें प्रत्येक मानव अपना प्रतिबिंब देखता है।

—गेटे

बच्चे की मुस्कान देश की शान

भारत त्रिपाठी । १०- 'सी'

जिस तरह बगीचे की शोभा फूलों की मुस्कान से बढ़ती है, ठीक उसी तरह किसी देश की शोभा भी उस देश के बच्चों के मुस्कान पर निर्भर है। ये फूल बाग की शोभा में खिलने पर चार चाँद लगा देते हैं। मगर खिलने से पहले मुकुलित काल से ही इनकी देख-भाल अत्यंत जरूरी है, वरना बाग की शोभा नष्ट हो जाएगी।

बच्चे जो कल के नागरिक हैं, अगर उनकी देख-भाल उचित ढंग से न की गई तो देश का भविष्य घोर अंधकार के अलावा कुछ नहीं। लेकिन क्या हमारे देश के मुकुलित नाई नागरिकों को वह मिल रहा है, जो चाहिए? नहीं।

इस देश में न जाने कितने गरीब हैं, जिन्हें दो जून की रोटी भी नसीब नहीं। भला पढ़ाई-लिखाई, कपड़े-लत्ते की कौन कहे। उनके माँ-बाप इतमें गरीब हैं, कि या तो भीख माँग कर नहीं तो नौकरों का काम करके कुछ पैसे इकट्ठे करने की कोशिश करते हैं। खुद पढ़े-लिखे न होने के कारण, पढ़ाई का महत्व या तो सूझता नहीं, है, और यदि सूझता भी है तो पैसे नहीं होते हैं। खुद पढ़ाने के काबिल तो हैं नहीं, शिक्षा जो सबसे महत्वपूर्ण चीज जिन बच्चों के नसीब में नहीं है वे अपना सारा दिन गलियों में खेलकूद में बिता देते हैं।

बच्चे चाहे गरीब हो या अमीर, उनके भी हृदय होते हैं, हृदय भावनाओं का सागर जिसकी लहरें ज्वार-भाटे की तरह उठती है और गिरती हैं। ये बच्चे अमीर बच्चों को देखते हैं, जो अच्छे कपड़े पहनते हैं, अच्छे घरों में रहते हैं और अच्छे विद्याभवनों में शिक्षा प्राप्त करते हैं, इस सोने के संसार को देखकर इनमें

भी इस रईस की लिप्सा जागृत होती है। इस चाहे की तृष्णा को बुझाने के लिए, ये बच्चे कोई भी रास्ते को अपना लेंगे जिससे केवल तृप्ति मिल सके।

हाँ सड़कों पर, गुण्डागर्दी, पाकेटमारी, और चोरी करनेवाले यही हैं, ये कुमार बचपन से ही तो चोरी करते आ रहे हैं, और अब इस सफाई के साथ अपना कार्य करते हैं कि पुलिस और जनता दोनों के नाकों दम कर देते हैं। चाहत की उफनती चिंगारियों को पैसा ठण्डा तो जरूर कर देता है, मगर ज्वाला ठंडी होती है तो बहुत देर हो चुकी रहती है। स्कूल और शिक्षा से क्या मतलब, मतलब तो है, गाँजा, चरस, भाँग और जुए से। एक शराबी, जुआरी या गंजेडी के बच्चों को क्या शिक्षा, चिर, और गेंद कभी मिल सकता है। हरगिज नहीं। और अपने अपरिमेय अशिल्ल पिता की राह चुनने के अलावा कोई चारा नहीं। माँ तो होती है, मगर बेचारी वह क्या करेगी? घर-घर बर्तन माँज-कर बच्चों का पालन-पोषण करने के अलावा हर रात नशे में, भूत पति के जूते खाती है। वह तो एक जीती जागती विधवा के समान है।

पारो हमारे घर में आज दो महीने से काम कर रही थी। १२ वर्षीय अबोध बालिका दिन भर खटकर ५० रुपये महीना तो कमा ही लेती थी मगर यह रुपया उसके हित के लिए हो तब न। इस अनाथ बालिका का कोई नहीं, रहने के जगह और रक्षा के लालच से अपने चाचा के साथ झोपड़पट्टी में रहती थी। चाचा रोज रात को बेचारी को डाँट-डपटकर, या मार-पीटकर किसी न किसी तरह से पैसे वसूल कर के मदिरालय में सम्भोग करता था और बेचारी बच्ची रात को भूखी सो जाती थी। एक दिन उसे चाचा ने बहुत पीटा तो रोती रोती रात में ही हमारे घर भागकर चली आई। हमने सोचा जाने दो इसे अपने घर पर ही आश्रय दे-देते हैं। हमारे यहाँ रहेगी, खायेगी-पियेगी और काम करेगी। दो दिन तो कुछ न हुआ मगर तीसरे दिन उसका चाचा आ पहुँचा और मारता-पीटता उसे ले गया। हमारा पारो पर क्या अधिकार था, सोचा जाने दो बेचारी की किस्मत ही फूटी है। दूसरे दिन से हफ्ते भर वह काम पर नहीं आई।

आठवें रोज जब मैं अपने डाक्टर के क्लिनिक से बाहर निकला तो एक बच्चे के हाथ मेरे तरफ भीख के लिए बढ़ आये। जब से दस पैसे निकालकर मैं ने उसके हाथ पर रख दिया, तभी मेरी नजर उसके चेहरे पर पड़ी वह लडकी पारो थी। वह फूटकर रो पड़ी मैंने उसे पुलीस स्टेशन चलने को कहा तो वह वहाँ से भाग गई। यह एक उदाहरण है, मगर न जाने कितने ऐसी घटनाएँ हर रोज होती हैं।

बच्चों की दशा सुधारने के लिए १९९६ अंतर-राष्ट्रीय बाल-वर्ष घोषित किया गया है। पता नहीं किस हद तक यह अपने लक्ष्य को पूरा करेगा।

मगर गरीबी ही बच्चों के खुशहाली का सबसे बड़ा बाधक नहीं है। अनुराग अपरिमेय प्रेम की सरिता है, जिसके जल की जरूरत बच्चों को, अंकुर की तरह आवश्यक है। माँ-पिता के अलावा इस जल से और कोई नहीं सींच सकता।

क्या पैसा ही दुनिया में सब कुछ है? कितने लोग ऐसे हैं जो दिन रात पैसा कमाने में व्यस्त रहते हैं। माँ कहीं काम करती है, तो पिता कहीं और। बच्चा-आया की देखभाल में और आया-दूसरे नौकरों के साथ गप-शप के लड़ाने में लगी है। चलो आया की देखरेख चार-पाँच वर्ष तक रही, मगर उसके बाद बच्चा बड़े स्कूल में पहुँचा। जब स्कूल से निकलता है, तो वह बच्चा नहीं नवयुवक हो गया रहता है। माँ-पिता समझते हैं कि उनका बच्चा सबसे अच्छे स्कूल में पढ़ कर बहुत काबिल बन गया है। भला क्यों न बने पानी

पानी की तरह पैसा जो बहाया है। लेकिन अपने बच्चों के व्यवहार उन्हें सड़में के भँवर में डूबो देता है। अब जब माता-पिता लखपति बन चुके हैं, और अकेले हो गये हैं तो बच्चों का प्यार, और आदर खोजते हैं। मगर जिन बच्चों को उन्होंने प्यार से नहीं, पैसे से सींचकर बड़ा किया है, पैसे के अलावा प्यार और आदर देने में असमर्थ रहते हैं। प्यार देने और लेने के लिए तो स्कूल के साथी हैं, हीं, और इन साथियों के संगत में ये भी बुरी आदतों के शिकार हो जाते हैं।

गरीब-अमीर के बीच में आते हैं, मध्यवर्गीय लोग जिनके घरों में अक्सर ही बच्चे बिगड़ते हैं। क्योंकि ये लोग अपने बच्चों का पालन-पोषण का मूल्य न पैसे से न गरीबी से भरते हैं, मगर स्नेह से। फिर भी कुछ बच्चे घर के विचित्र वातावरण में बिगड़ जाते हैं मगर ऐसा सौ में एक या दो ही होंगे।

मेरे कहने का मतलब यह नहीं है कि बच्चे प्रायः बिगड़ते ही हैं, मगर हाँ इतना जरूर सत्य है कि हमारे देश में गरीबी के कारण या और किसी कारणवश लगभग सत्तर प्रतिशत से भी अधिक बच्चों की आर्थिक दशा बहुत खराब है। हमें इसका समाधान शीघ्र ढूँढ निकालना चाहिये और जितना संभव हो बच्चों की आर्थिक दशा को सुधारना चाहिए, ताकि कल के भावी नागरिकों के जीवन में घोर अंधकार में आशा की एक मरीची दीखे। राष्ट्र की शान सुखी संपन्न राष्ट्र-वासियों से ही बढ़ती है।

भारत में व्याप्त अंधविश्वास

एन्. कुलकर्णी, १० सी

भारत एक अत्यंत विशाल देश है वह स्वाभाविक है कि उसमें भिन्न प्रकार के व्यक्ति बसते हैं। पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में तो कबीलों की संख्या अनगिनत है। हर गूट के विभिन्न रीतियाँ, रूढ़ियाँ, जातियाँ हमारे दृष्टिक्षेप में आते हैं। स्वाभाविक ही है कि ऐसे देवा में अंधविश्वास कुछ न कुछ हद तक प्रचलित होंगे— और यह सिर्फ अशिक्षित लोगों तक सीमित न रहकर शिक्षित लोगों में भी व्याप्त है।

कुछ कबीलों में, विशेषतः नरभक्षी कबीलों में किसी अनजान व्यक्ति को बली-वेदी पर चढ़ना देना व फिर उसका मांस खाना क्या अंधविश्वास नहीं कहलाएगा ?

कुछ उदाहरण तो अपनी चरम सीमा पार कर जाते हैं—जैसे, अगर कोई घर का आदमी बाहर गया हो व घरवाले उसकी राह देख रहे हों तो ऐसा माना जाता है कि दरवाजे के पीछे नमक रखने से वह व्यक्ति जल्दी लौट आता है। अब भला सोचिए, एक न-कीन पदार्थ का व एक बाहर गए बाहर गए व्यक्ति के जल्दी आने का कोई संबंध है ?

एक बहुत ही आम उदाहरण है बिल्ली के द्वारा रास्ता काटना—यह अशुभ समझा जाता है, परंतु चिंता किस-लिए ? दस कदम जिस राह से आ रहे थे उसी राह पर वापस जाइए व अपने इष्ट देव का चिंतन कीजिए—ब्रह्म अशुभ शुभ में परिवर्तित हो जाएगा। है न सोचने लायक बात ?

एक और रोचक उदाहरण है—छींकने का। जी हाँ, किसी बात को आप सत्य साबित करना चाहें तो छींक दीजिए। मुझे एक व्यक्ति मिला था जो एक घटना का वर्णन कर रहा था। मेरे मित्र को, जो पास ही खड़ा था, जुकाम था। जब भी वह छींकता, वह व्यक्ति अपना वर्णन अधूरा छोड़कर कहता—“ देखो, सत्य है। ” इसका कारण यह था कि अगर कोई व्यक्ति कोई बात

कह रहा हो व कोई अन्य व्यक्ति छींक दे तो वह जो कह रहा है वह सच है।

कई लोगों को १३ नंबर का डर रहता है। उनकी यह धारणा है कि यह नंबर अशुभ है। मेरा एक इसी प्रकार का मित्र था जिसे १३ नं का डर लगा रहता था। एक बार वह पहली बार मथुरा गया। उसे हॉटेल में ठहरना था सो उसने स्टेशन के आस-पास के हॉटेलों में कमरे के लिए पूछ-ताछ की। परंतु सब कमरे भरे हुए थे। अंत में वह हताश होकर एक हॉटेल में गया। वहाँ के व्यवस्थापक ने उसे बताया कि एक कमरा खाली था व उसका नंबर १३ था। बस मेरा दोस्त वहाँ से खिसक लिया व स्टेशन पर जाकर रात बिताई।

एक और रोचक उदाहरण है नाखूनों का—कुछ व्यक्तियों की यह धारणा होती है कि नाखून काटकर घर में रखने से नाखून के वजन तक का सोना या धन घर में नहीं रहता : 'गरीबी' के बढ़ने का यही शायद एक कारण होगा। इसके उलट ऐसा कहा जाता है कि बगैर जान-बूझकर अगर मंगलवार को कोई नाखून काटता है तो वह असीम धनराशी प्राप्त करता है।

मेरा एक दोस्त था जो अपनी बेटी का रिश्ता तय करने कहीं देहात जा रहा था। लड़का होनहार व सुशील था। लड़की के पिता अपने समझी से मिलने जा रहे थे, अचानक रास्ते में गाड़ी बंद पड़ गई। गाड़ी ठीक कर वे वापस अपने घर चले आए क्योंकि उनके मता-नुसार लड़का 'अशुभ' था। बस, एक अच्छा दामाद उनके हाथों से निकल गया व लड़की निराश होकर रह गई।

हमारे आम-जीवन में ऐसे कई घटनाएँ घटती हैं व घटती रहेंगी परंतु हमें उनकी ओर दुर्लक्ष करना चाहिए व उन लोगों को समझाना पड़ेगा जो अंध-विश्वास में अंधश्रद्धा रखते हैं। यही एक मार्ग है अंधविश्वास को उखाड़ फेंकने का।

सविता

— अजय सी. जोशी, १० ए

मैं हतबुद्ध था कि इतनी छोटी सी बात, जिसे अगर मजाक कहूँ तो अच्छा ही होगा और उसका इतना भयानक परिणाम.....? आज यह कोई नई बात तो न थी, हमेशा ही मैं सविता को किसी न किसी तरह से तंग किया करता था। कभी उसकी पुस्तकें छुपा देता तो कभी चप्पल। या जब कभी पढ़ने समय वह थोड़ी देर के लिए कहीं उठकर चली जाती तो पेन, कापी या किताब में से उसकी कोई न कोई वस्तु अपने स्थान से अवश्य गायब रहती थी। पानी भरते समय यदि वह क्षणभर के लिए किसी सहेली से बातें करने लगती तो मुड़ने पर या तो उसे बाल्टी खाली मिलती, या फिर अपनी जगह से गायब.....?

ये शैतानियाँ केवल एक तरफा न थीं। ताली तो दोनों हाथों से बजती है न। अक्सर अब मैं नल पर मुँह-हाथ धो रहा होता तो एक लोटा पानी मेरे कुर्ते को अवश्य गोला कर देती या पत्थर मेरे शरीर पर चोट करने के पश्चात् धरती पर लोट कर मानो अपनी स्वयं की व्यथाकथा रहा होती।

ऐसे अवसर पर कभी मुझे यह राह देखने व जानने की आवश्यकता न पड़ती कि यह सब किसकी हरकत है। यह सब तो प्रकृति के नियमों की तरह रोजमर्रा की बातें थीं। जिस दिन इनमें से किसी भी शैतानी का शिकार न होता तो लगता था उसे कोई अस्वामाविक घटना घटी हो। या यूँ कहिए कि इन हरकतों का अभाव हम दोनों में से किसी एक का दूसरे के प्रति रुठने का संकेत देता। गंभीरता हमें यूँ खलती थी जैसे सर्दी के दिनों में बर्फीली हवाएँ। खुशी, हास्य एवं चुलबुलेपन के वातावरण में गंभीरता वैसे ही तो दम तोड़ देती है।

हमारे बीच हास्य और व्यंग्य ही स्थायी माध्यम है। और सविता का हँसने का ढंग भी तो निगला था।

बस एक बार हँसने लगती तो फिर से सामान्य अवस्था में आने के लिए उसे इतना समय लगता कि मैं उपन्यास के ५-६ पृष्ठ पढ़ लेता था। इस हँसी की अदा भी निराली थी। हँसती तो अपना मुँह हाथों और चुन्नी में छुपा लेती।

मेरे पिता, माता और निकट पड़ोसी अक्सर कहा करते, “सविता !” इतना मत हँसाकर बंटी, नहीं तो एक दिन इस हँसी का मूल्य आँसुओं से चुकाना पड़ेगा।

परन्तु सविता पर इस हिदायत का कभी कोई असर होता ही नहीं था। वह उसे भी अन्य अनेकानेक बातों की तरह मजाक मानकर एक बार और हँस देती। ऐसा लगता मानो अल्लाह ने हँसी का सारा भांडार सविता की ही झोली में उँडेल दिया है। वह हँसी मेरे अस्तित्व में इतनी समा गई कि उसकी गंभीरता का विचार मात्र कब्रिस्तान के सन्नाटे-सा लगता था।

एक तरफ वह जितनी हँस मुख थी और हँसी के आवरण में रहना पसंद करती, दूसरी ओर रुठ जाने पर घंटों और कभी कभी दिनों तक मनाये ने मानती थी। गुस्सा आने पर वह अक्सर सिर झुका कर खड़ी हो जाती और फिर पाँव के अंगूठे से जमोन कुरेदती रहती तो कभी चुन्नी को अपनी अंगुलियों में फँसाकर घुमाती। ऐसे समय में उसके गाल की रक्तिम आभा एक अलग ही छवि देती। उसकी नम आँखें मूक भाषा में मानी कर रही होतीं — “हमीद तुमने मेरी भावनाओं को ठेस पहुँचाई है।”

ऐसे में सारा वातावरण ही बोझिल हो जाता और सभी वस्तुएँ अपना आकर्षण गँवाकर मानो नीरस हो जाती। मैं स्वयं ग्लानि अनुभव करता और सोचता कि क्यों व्यर्थ ही मजाक कर बेचारी का दिन भर के लिए मूड खराब किया। परन्तु उसके सामने मुझे इस भावना का इकरार करते हीनता का अनुभव होता था। अन्दर

से विचलित रहने पर भी हँसी का मुँहोटा पहने रहता। गुस्से में कभी कभी मेरी अटपटी बातों पर हँस भी देता तो आंसू भी साथ ही वह निकलते। उसका मुँह तिजोरी के ताले की नाई की तरह और भी मजबूती से बंद हो जाता और वह मुझे अपनी मूकता से दण्डित करती रहती। ऐसा होने पर मैं सीझ उठता पर उसका मोन ब्रत बना रहता। कुछ समय पश्चात् वह उठकर अपने घर की ओर चल देती और मैं निश्चिन्त होने का अभिनय करते हुए भी उसकी दशा से विचलित रहता।

अक्सर उसे चिढ़ाने के लिए कहता, "जावेद के साथ तुम्हारा प्रेम प्रसंग कैसा चल रहा है?" "आसिफ तो तुम पर इस कदर मेहरबान हैं कि बस तुम्हारी इजाजत की ही देर है।" परन्तु वह मेरी मानसिक स्थिति से अच्छी तरह परिचित थी। उसने इन प्रसंगों का कभी बुरा न माना। मेरी बात का जवाब एक मधुर मुस्कान से मिलता। वह जानती थी कि वे शब्द मेरे दिल से नहीं केवल मुँह से निकले थे उन शब्दों की अघीनता और खोखलापन भी उससे छुपा न था।

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आज सुबह भी ऐसी ही एक स्थिति आ पहुँची जहाँ उसके मुँह पर की हँसी के अलावा एव कड़क स्वभाव प्रकट हो रहा था मानो उसका चेहरा पत्थर का बना हो। मेरे हठीले स्वभाव से वह भली भाँति परिचित थी और इस बार उसका भी निश्चय था कि वह मेरे इस स्वभाव का मुँह तोड़ जवाब देगी। परन्तु इस बार भी असफल रहने के कारण वह सचमुच भावुकता में बह चली। रोई भी हो तो हाथों और चून्नी में मुँह छुपा होने के कारण उसके आँसुओं के अस्तित्व का ज्ञान न हो पाया मुझे।

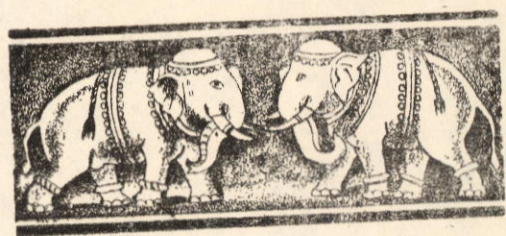
उसे रोष में वह जल्दी-जल्दी तैयार होकर कॉलेज चल दी ताकि शीघ्र से शीघ्र इस तनावपूर्ण वातावरण से मुक्ति पा सके और अपनी सहेलियों की बातों में सुबह की घटना को भूला सके। परन्तु पराजय का भाव अब उसपर हावी होने लगा था। लाख न चाहने पर भी उसके मानसपटल पर कुछ समय पहले की घटना घूम जाती और उसे झकझोर देती। आत्माभिमान का यह नया भाव अनोखा जरूर था, मगर उसे निरंतर कुरेद रहा था। उसके मन में ईर्ष्या, पराजय और निराशा के भाव खड़े हो गये थे। उसे अपना और आसपास का कोई एहसास न था और यदि कुछ था तो केवल मेरे प्रति बदले की भावना बढ़ती ही जा रही थी।

वह अपने इन्हीं ख्यालों में सड़क को पार करते हुए, इतनी खोई हुई थी कि शायद उसे इस बात का आभास भी न हो पाया होगा कि कोई गाड़ी उसके ऊपर से गुजर कर उसकी आत्मा और चेतना को उसके शरीर से जुदा कर चुकी थी.....।

मैं, हमीद अपराधी भाव में हाथ बांधे, सिर झुकाए खड़ा हूँ। मेरे सामने बरामदे में एक सफेद चादर में लिपटी पड़ी है—सविता—खामोश और बेजान। वह अभी भी साधे पड़ी है और मैं जानता हूँ कि इस बार यह मौन हमेशा की तरह टूटने वाला नहीं। मैं अब उसे मना न पाऊँगा।

अब मेरे पिता, माता और निफट पड़ोसी कभी न कहेंगे, "सविता! इतना हँसा मत कर, नहीं तो एक दिन इस सब हँसी का मूल्य आँसुओं से चुकाना पड़ेगा।"

अब उस हँसी का मूल्य चुकाने के लिए मैं रह गया हूँ।केवल मैं.....!!



से विचलित रहने पर भी हँसी का मुखौटा पहने रहता। गुस्से में कभी कभी मेरी अटपटी बातों पर हँस भी देता तो आंसू भी साथ ही वह निकलते। उसका मुँह तिजोरी के ताले की नाई की तरह और भी मजबूती से बंद हो जाता और वह मुझे अपनी मूकता से दण्डित करती रहती। ऐसा होने पर मैं सौझ उठता पर उसका मौन ब्रत बना रहता। कुछ समय पश्चात् वह उठकर अपने घर की ओर चल देती और मैं निश्चिन्त होने का अभिनय करते हुए भी उसकी दशा से विचलित रहता।

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